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Japan

U.S. Defense Secretary Postpones Tokyo Trip

OW1404235594 Tokyo KYODO in English 2302 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Washington, April 14 KYODO—Defense Secretary William Perry on Thursday [14 April] abruptly postponed a visit to South Korea and Japan planned for next week following the accidental downing of two U.S. helicopters by American jets over northern Iraq.

A Pentagon spokesman, Maj. Steve Little, said he does not know when Perry will be able to make the trip.

"We don't know yet how long it will be delayed. The scheduling is definitely a problem," little told KYODO NEWS SERVICE by phone.

The Pentagon issued a statement about the cancellation of Perry's trip hours after a senior Defense Department official briefed reporters on the upcoming visit, which would have been Perry's first to the region since becoming defense chief in early February.

"The decision (to postpone the trip) was made to allow Secretary Perry time to ensure that the families of those who were killed are fully supported, to guarantee a thorough investigation, and also to review the existing procedures," the Pentagon said.

Perry was originally scheduled to arrive in Seoul on Sunday and travel on to Tokyo on Tuesday before returning home on Thursday.

Hosokawa Attends Dinner Hosted by Mondale

OW1504144794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1422 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Departing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale agreed Friday [15 April] to continue cooperating with each other in further enhancing ties between Japan and the United States.

The two reached the accord at a dinner party hosted by Mondale and his wife, Joan, at the U.S. envoy's official residence in central Tokyo, Hosokawa told reporters. Hosokawa's wife, Kayoko, also attended.

Mondale reportedly voiced regret over Hosokawa's decision to resign due to the Diet paralysis on the fiscal 1994 budget, which was spawned by allegations of his financial improprieties.

Mondale also called on Hosokawa to continue working with him after his resignation to further promote bilateral relations, the premier said.

Hosokawa, 56, who suddenly offered to step down last week, will remain on board until his successor is chosen.

Friday night's dinner party followed an earlier invitation from Hosokawa asking the Mondales to his official residence.

Nissan To Build Trucks in U.S. for Canada Sale

OW1404160194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1529 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—A Canadian subsidiary of Nissan Motor Co. will take delivery of U.S.-built pickup trucks from Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corp. U.S.A. (NMMC) late this month, according to Nissan motor officials.

It will be the first time Nissan has exported U.S.-built pickup trucks to Canada.

NMMC is a U.S. manufacturing arm of the Japanese automaker.

Nissan said some 3,300 trucks will be shipped to Canada from NMMC in the business year that started on April 1.

Kumagai Favors WTO Handling of Deregulation

OW1504024094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0224 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai on Friday [15 April] supported a U.S. proposal that a new multilateral trade organization deal with the issue of deregulation.

The comment came in response to a speech Thursday by U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in Marrakech, Morocco, in which he said domestic issues like government regulations should be taken up by the World Trade Organization (WTO), a forum to succeed the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade next year.

"Discussion in a multilateral setting will likely provide some solutions to issues like deregulation," Kumagai told a press conference.

Kumagai, however, opposed a proposal that Japan, the United States and the European Union (EU) create a trilateral forum to discuss economic and trade affairs.

In a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata in Marrakech on Thursday, EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan proposed such a forum.

"Such a trilateral forum would only complicate problems," Kumagai said, indicating his view that issues like the Japan-U.S. trade "framework" talks should be basically held on a bilateral basis.

German Rate Cut Not To 'Change' Tokyo Policies

OW1504021694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0159 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Germany's overnight rate cuts will not lead Japan to take fresh fiscal and monetary measures ahead of a spate of international meetings slated in Washington later this month, Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Friday [15 April].

"Japan will not change its policies and will continue steadily implementing its latest measures," Fujii told a regular news conference after a morning cabinet meeting.

The Bundesbank's policy-making council decided overnight to cut its discount and lombard rates by a quarter of a percentage point to an annual 5.00 percent and 6.50 percent, effective Friday.

Fujii declined to comment on overseas policy, only saying that lower rates help a country's economy.

The timing of the rate cuts would allow other European nations to follow suit ahead of the international financial gatherings in Washington.

Finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations are expected to meet on April 24 before a spate of twice-yearly meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

With Germany set to portray its rate cuts as soothing growing concerns over the recent trend for a rise in long-term market rates in G-7 nations, Japan may be under pressure to demonstrate a commitment to reducing its huge trade surplus.

The G-7 nations are Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Roundtable Discussion on World Patent System

942A0081A Tokyo TSUSAN JANARU in Japanese Feb 94 pp 20-25

[Roundtable Discussion with Takuma Yamamoto, board of directors chairman, Fujitsu; Yoshimasa Ito, president, director Koden Seisakusho; Kenji Naemura, professor, Keio University; Wataru Aso, director general, Japan Patent Office; place and date not given: "For Implementation of Globally Sustainable Patent System"]

[Text] **Increasing Number of Intellectual Property Disputes**

[Wataru Aso] These days the number of international patent disputes or, more generally, the number of international intellectual property disputes is increasing. Domestic patent disputes are also on the rise. Furthermore, huge sums are being awarded these days for patent infringements.

I'd like to start by getting a clear picture of the situation and your views on what's happening. First, I would like to start with Mr. Yamamoto, who is one of our leading industrialists.

[Takuma Yamamoto] Patent and copyright disputes having to do with software started increasing in the second half of the 1980's when the United States first adopted policies to protect intellectual property—in other words, when it started taking a pro-patent stance. As indicated by Mr. Aso, the settlements have been fairly large. At one time, large corporations in the United States took a relatively generous position on patent questions. Recently that hasn't been the case. The United States is a society of lawyers, and although I don't have any evidence to support my suspicions, it seems they tend to stir things up among smaller and midsized businesses, giving rise to frequent litigation.

Even setting aside Fujitsu's case, I think we'll find examples where a broad interpretation is being given to patents. It's not a matter of simply being "pro-patent" or not. It's a problem of interpretation: something which the Japanese might not think is in violation of a patent will be interpreted in the United States quite differently. Another problem, which will probably be discussed later, clearly has to do with the patent system in the United States—with so-called "submarine patents" that one day seem to surface out of the blue.

[Aso] Mr. Ito's company [Koden Seisakusho] has trading partners all over the world. Are you encountering problems with regard to patents or intellectual property rights?

[Yoshimasa Ito] Well, I don't think that we're in violation of any patents, but when it comes to talk about triple indemnity awards and parity, those stories in themselves are enough to make me want to give up on the idea of going to the United States. Actually, those worries occupy a foremost place in our work. In the case of the United States, there were a lot of times, particularly in the case of patents, when I thought that certain situations wouldn't go well even if they were put in the hands of a professional.

As Mr. Yamamoto was saying, the United States is a litigious society, and in a sense, a part of its culture, which emphasizes on individualism, has taken a strange turn. I think one can say without exaggerating that there is a side to the current U.S. pro-patent system that makes it easy to turn patent problems into disputes, which can be considered to be even immoral. Certainly that has affected us psychologically to a very great extent.

Japan's Role With Regard to Developing Countries

[Aso] Professor Naemura, what do you think of this situation?

[Kenji Naemura] Technology leads economies, and at a time when economies are turning global, technology naturally crosses national boundaries and enters various countries. When that happens, it is inevitable for technologies to come up against the cultures of those countries and their respective patent and legal systems. We have to think about strategies ahead of time premised on those differences.

Questions are now being raised, I think, about Japan's policy in light of the pro-patent policy of the United

States. It's not a matter simply for the Japanese Government. More broadly, it has to involve consensus-building that includes those in industry.

Right now there are people in Japan asserting that a pro-patent stance will have the effect of "hollowing out" industries and that a move to strengthen the patent system, in and of itself, is not a good idea. Such views may be all right if one wants to treat the symptoms, but we have to have debates on whether that is in fact the general consensus in Japan.

With regard to damage awards—data exist showing that, compared to the early half of the 1980's when the United States started taking pro-patent measures, the average damage award has increased about five fold. Compared to increases in the average cost of goods, a five fold increase in 10 years is just too steep.

It's like the bubble phenomenon that occurred here with regard to land prices. Somehow we have to get this situation under control. At the time, people were asking what would happen if land prices were to drop suddenly. The same questions are being asked now. So it's imperative that we consider measures that will bring things to rest at a suitable level.

[Ito] Take the case of semiconductors for example. Useful products come into being as the cumulative result of a number of innovations. When an unreasonable amount is demanded in royalties for a single patent, technology is going to suffer. It's going to end up wrecking businesses. Within the United States, a rather confusing situation has come about as the result of cross-licensing.

The possibility of strengthening patents was just mentioned. But patents are like the flowering of an idea that begins with an individual and then builds on the accumulated wisdom of others. To claim credit, as if solely responsible for that flowering, on the basis of what is really only a small part of the entire process, is excessive and wholly undesirable. There should be counterarguments to such claims on philosophical grounds.

For example, when Japan provides technology to developing countries, we should be able to argue against such claims. Talks between industrially advanced countries and between advanced countries and developing countries include surprisingly nettlesome philosophical issues. U.S. demands at this time, I can't help feeling, are a little excessive.

[Aso] Mr. Naemura, how do you feel about the relationship between advanced and developing countries with respect to intellectual property rights?

[Naemura] I have the feeling the so-called developing nations are about two steps behind countries like the United States and Japan in regard to intellectual property rights. In developing countries, those rights haven't been clearly set down in a system yet. But let's say they are. It doesn't follow that these countries are then all going to be rushing forward in the same direction as industrially advanced countries.

There is another step in between where technology is introduced and that serves as the basis for further technological developments. Compared to economies, when technology is involved, the process involves at least one more step, and we have to think about how to help them through that additional step. It's the sort of problem that can't be solved simply by making a single rule and having that apply in common to everyone.

In the last 50 years or so since the end of World War II, Japan has come through that process, and the current generation has to pass that know-how on to developing countries. In that sense, Japan has an extremely important role to play.

U.S. System Is a Worldwide Problem

[Aso] Unlike patents, which specify who the inventor is in a way that's evident to people, it's often hard, in the case of copyrights, to tell whose rights have been violated and at what point until a lawsuit or charge has been brought against the alleged violator. In other words, copyrights are like land mines. It's hard to tell where they might lie buried or how big an explosion they'll set off. Among companies, how is such a problem handled, I wonder?

[Yamamoto] Well, in the case of programs, one can't go and investigate each and every invention that has ever been developed independently. It's impossible to thoroughly research what amounts to a mountain of material. So a term like "clean-dom" has appeared. All one can do is isolate oneself in an environment uncontaminated by others and there development something uniquely one's own.

For general patents, the Patent Office is creating a paperless [electronic] database. We would like to use this database to research precedents and previous technology. It costs large enterprises a lot of money to research such matters, but I'm afraid the costs for medium-sized businesses and smaller enterprises may still be prohibitive.

The U.S. system has caused a lot of problems in the past. There hasn't been a system for the public to get information, and one day someone suddenly comes up claiming to have a patent for old technology which is so self-evident that people now take it for granted. This leads to a mess. It has driven me to the point sometimes of almost feeling it is the most unfair system around, and it really has to be revised. It is a problem that can probably be solved through harmonization. In any case, I would definitely like to see the problem resolved as soon as possible.

[Ito] One of the problems is that you don't know if you're going to be stepping on a land mine. You don't know where the land mines have been planted. And even if you do, besides knowing where they are, you have to have a system that you know how long a mine is going to be a threat; for example, a battery should be placed inside them with an expected life span of 20 years, and when those 20 years are up, even if you should step on them, you're safe.

[Aso] A submarine patent has recently surfaced that has to do with [Jerome] Lemelson's image-processing technology. He applied for the patent in 1954. In 1992, 38 years later, the patent is finally approved. Under the U.S. system, this patent is in effect for 17 years, from 1992. Technology that everyone is using and has assumed is common property suddenly surfaces with a patent on it. Japan isn't the only country to suffer as a result. U.S. industries and industries throughout the world are suffering. This system has to be changed as soon as possible.

[Yamamoto] Lemelson's patent is for technology anyone would have thought of, and to that extent, it was inevitable that someone would have tried to patent the idea. The problem is that such ideas can be patented in the first place. One of the fundamental problems with the patent system lies here. The system is causing hardships throughout the world. It's enough to make me wish we could go back through history and set things right from the start.

[Naemura] For example, the United States and others are accusing Japan of having closed, idiosyncratic markets. Make them the same as markets elsewhere, we're told. But as far as patent systems go, the U.S. system is also closed and out of step with systems elsewhere. It also presents a problem in terms of its domestic-versus-foreign bias. So, we're at a period now, I think, when we should be asking why the U.S. system is closed and at the same time explaining to U.S. consumers how that system is hurting them and its industries in general.

It's true that Japanese industries are having a very hard time; but the United States isn't going to listen if we say we're hurting, so their system has to be changed. Rather, what's needed, I think, is to argue the point that the system is not only inconveniencing the United States but is bad for elsewhere in the world as well.

Europe and Japan's positions are very similar. We're both advocating the same kinds of things: change from a first-to-invent to a first-to-apply system, to a system where the public has access to patent information, and to a system where the patent period is calculated from the date of application. In the sense that other countries are advocating such changes, the U.S. system can be said to have become a worldwide problem.

The first-to-invent system that the United States is advocating is based on the idea of individualism—giving due respect to the individual and to individual gifts and talents—and places disproportionate emphasis on that philosophy. But I have a feeling that by establishing time limits, something can somehow be worked out.

[Yamamoto] I think a time limit is the first condition. But [patents] are very broadly interpreted. For example, in the case of the autofocus technology in cameras. You think there are no problems and then you go to the United States and there are. It's a tough situation to be in. One of the issues involved is how to decide on a matter when similar patents and similar claims emerge in a single stretch in the course of history.

In any case, what happens is that the differences in various systems and ways of thinking rub up against each other to cause friction among countries. And even with the harmonization of systems, I suspect there will still be problems.

[Aso] Even when systems are harmonized, the next problem to arise may be in their application and implementation. But, first of all, it's important to try our best to harmonize the various systems.

[Yamamoto] Yes, I hope we can move forward on this.

Technological Innovation, Source of Japan's Vitality

[Aso] The United States is now trying to build consensus regarding the direction its people want to see for the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) treaty. Professor Naemura, what do you think we should be anticipating from the United States?

[Naemura] It has already been mentioned in our discussion, but the U. S. system is very idiosyncratic.

[Aso] First of all, the United States has to be brought around to realizing that fact.

[Naemura] It means demanding changes in the current system in terms of the first-to-invent principle that it embodies and in terms of time requirements, public access, and the domestic-foreign bias that exists in the system. On the other hand, it means that demands will also be placed on Japan. For example, if the principle of parity is introduced and adopted, it will mean giving a broader interpretation in Japan to patent claims, and so it will be necessary to build consensus in Japan regarding such proposed changes.

[Aso] The United States is saying that Japan's patent review process takes too long. They also want applications to be accepted in English. Again, Japan recognizes objections from third parties before a patent is granted. The United States wants patents to be granted first and, then, if there are any objections, for those matters to be dealt with later. They are also asking for changes that would require a change in Japan's patent laws or fundamental revisions in the way the system operates—for example, when they say Japan's grace period is too short or the review period for applications is too long and they want it to be shortened.

If the United States said it would take bold steps to revise its system, then despite some problems, Japan too would make bold concessions. We have to approach future talks with an attitude that says to the United States, since Japan is going to make concessions, so should you.

[Yamamoto] I think a turning point has definitely come for private enterprises, too. First of all, it means paying serious attention to the system of investigating prior cases and precedents. It means not frivolously applying for patents. And through revisions in patent law, it means a shift which makes it possible to apply for ideas after they've been put together and better developed; in other words, it means a shift from quantity to quality.

[Ito] I think it's somewhat regrettable that the message for small and midsized enterprises may be to be very selective in their applications for patents, and wonder if some distinctions shouldn't be made in such cases. Of course, there's no way to argue against the idea of quality over quantity. But I think we also shouldn't lose sight of the fact that technological innovation has been an essential source of the energy that has been behind Japan's vitality.

[Aso] Yes, you're quite right. To ask applicants to be very selective in applying for patents is apt to hold down applications as a whole and be taken as a directive against inventing and developing new technologies, and that certainly is not our intention at all. We want people to keep coming up with a lot of good ideas. But we also want them to do their homework and look thoroughly into the matter of related, prior inventions. The Patent Office doesn't want to be flooded with an indiscriminate number of applications without this homework having been done.

Promote the Harmonization of Patent Systems and Their Application

[Aso] Mr. Yamamoto mentioned this awhile ago, but in July 1993 the Patent Office put a system into operation that is completely electronic. As part of our database, we've already processed some 30 million cases and made this information available to the public. We want the fruits of this paperless database be our common property.

[Yamamoto] Japan's Patent Office's paperless database system seems to be the first of its kind in the world. It's important, not only in the sense of preventing patent disputes, but also in the sense of being forward-looking. The system will probably be a useful reference for developing countries, too. We are looking forward to seeing the Patent Office working together with the appropriate countries when the time is right.

[Ito] It's splendid that a project of this scope has been successfully carried out. From here on, the task will be to update the system on a constant basis, and as Mr. Yamamoto said, I hope its use can be broadened to include assistance to developing countries.

[Naemura] I imagine that, through this system, the process of reviewing applications will be made much more efficient. Naturally, that's one of the points to be appreciated. I hope its merits will also be assessed in terms of volume.

[Aso] Right now, databases are kept separately. The United States has its own database and the same with Europe and Japan. So each of their respective patent offices has gotten together and they are trying to make it so that the data can all be mutually used. Also, since their methods are all different for searching and looking into previous technology, hopefully, there will be some harmonization here, too.

Another point is that views differ in respect to novelty or originality. This is the most difficult point, and work is now in progress in this area. In addition to harmonizing systems, I hope energy is put into harmonizing the way the systems are put into practice and operation.

Thank you for participating today in our discussion of so many different issues.

ROK Moves for Inter-Korean Dialogue Hailed

OW1504113394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1057 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Japan welcomed South Korea's decision Friday [15 April] to seek dialogue with North Korea to implement a 1992 declaration to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

Japan gave high marks to the decision because it clarifies Seoul's policy to seek dialogue to solve the problem of North Korea's alleged nuclear development. The move is in line with the UN Security Council's presidential statement last month, Foreign Ministry spokesman Terusuke Terada said.

The announcement also made clear Seoul's policy to promote dialogue with Pyongyang to implement an inter-Korean declaration aimed at denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, the spokesman said.

Japan will continue its close contact with the United States, South Korea and other countries, and urge North Korea to accept full inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to respond to Seoul's calls for dialogue, he said.

South Korea's Deputy Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok said Friday that Seoul will no longer hold Pyongyang to an exchange of envoys as a precondition for a third round of high-level talks between North Korea and the U.S.

Yi, who also serves as national unification minister, said Seoul no longer believes the stance will help resolve the stalemate over the north's reluctance to permit international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

The exchange of envoys, along with full nuclear inspections, had been key preconditions to holding high-level talks between Washington and Pyongyang.

North Korea allowed IAEA experts to inspect its facilities in March but blocked access to a key facility suspected of producing plutonium, which can be used to make nuclear bombs. Pyongyang says its nuclear program is peaceful.

North Korea has insisted on talking only with the U.S., refusing to discuss the issue with Seoul. It also rejected the UN Security Council statement.

Talks between Seoul and Pyongyang broke down last month when North Korean delegates stormed out of a meeting after threatening to turn South Korea into "a sea of fire."

Koreans Find Documents Supporting Wartime Claims

OW1404154894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1516 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Nagoya, April 14 KYODO—A group of Korean residents in Japan said Thursday [14 April] they have found a wartime Japanese Security Ministry document indicating Korean residents were conscripted to work at a warplane factory in Nagoya.

The document was seized by the general headquarters of the allied occupation forces after Japan's surrender in 1945, but was later returned to Japan. It has been kept in the Diet library until the group detected it recently.

The group is led by Yu Hwang-su, a senior official of the Tokyo headquarters of the pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun).

The group called a news conference at Chongryun's Aichi Prefectural headquarters and distributed copies of the document entitled "Thought Quarterly," compiled by the ministry in 1944.

The document says conscription squeezed the income of the Korean residents so steeply that the despondent laborers at the warplane engine factory in Nagoya had lost the will to work hard, the group said.

Security Ministry investigators who probed the factory's working conditions for 15 days starting February 16, 1944, found that 24 people, or 36 percent of the 67 korean laborers, failed to show up to work, according to the document.

Hong Song-chin, the group's secretariat chief and a Chongryun official, told reporters, "although we read 100,000 pages of official documents, this is the first specific name of the factory we have finally found" where Korean laborers were conscripted to work.

In a related development, the same group announced it will launch a nationwide investigation Monday to gather testimonies from Koreans who were forcibly brought to Japan before or during World War II.

The probe is also designed to elucidate the truth regarding the Japanese Government's crackdown on pro-independence Korean activists and citizens during wartime, it said.

The group said the probe is the nation's first into Korean residents in Japan who were subjected to conscription or the clampdown on the pro-independence movement.

It said it will submit its findings to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva this August.

Chongryun pollers will visit and distribute questionnaires to 10,000 households of Koreans who survived the repression or conscription, it said.

The survey will cover pro-Pyongyang and pro-Seoul Korean residents, and the group hopes to complete it by the end of May.

The Korean community numbers some 670,000, of which 10 percent are believed to be Koreans forcibly brought to Japan before or during World War II, and the remaining are their offspring.

The probe will touch on female laborers or "comfort women," who were forced to provide sex for Japanese troops at frontline military brothels run by the Japanese Imperial Army.

Banks Complete Swapping of Brazilian Debt

OW1504064794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0546 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Japanese banks on Friday [15 April] completed swapping 650 billion yen worth of loans to Brazil for equities to restructure the debt, banking officials said.

The so-called Brady bonds will be listed in Europe and most of the banks are expected to sell them immediately, the officials said.

The officials said the bonds are expected to be sold for a total of 350 billion yen. This will leave the banks with losses of 300 billion yen which they expect to liquidate in closing their midterm books at the end of September.

The plan is part of the Brady initiative launched in 1989 by former U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

Under the initiative, creditor banks, after discounting credit, swap loans to Latin American countries for bonds issued by the debtor nations.

Banks have previously liquidated bad loans to Mexico, Venezuela and Argentina using a similar method. The Brazilian scheme wraps up the initiative, the officials said.

More Reportage on Choosing Hosokawa Successor

Sakigake on Coalition Candidate

OW1504064594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0638 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—New party Sakigake (Harbinger) led by Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura will not take posts in a new cabinet, but will support the coalition's candidate for premier to succeed outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Shusei Tanaka, acting leader, made the statement.

Sakigake has boycotted discussion sessions of secretaries general of the coalition parties to select a candidate for the next prime minister, saying the coalition chiefs should first discuss the matter.

LDP Urged To Maintain Unity

OW1504030994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0301 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The primary opposition Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] should maintain unity over the choice of its own candidate for the premiership, a senior party official said Friday [15 April].

"In any event, the best way for our party to return to power is to pull together and remain united," LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori told a news conference.

Mori made the remark in response to a question about former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's reported move to break away from the LDP, launch a new party and seek to become prime minister.

While declining direct comment on the report, Mori said he will closely monitor a meeting between LDP President Yohei Kono and Watanabe on Friday afternoon.

Kono is expected to ask Watanabe not to run for the premiership so as to avoid a major split of the LDP.

Watanabe's faction, the fourth largest among the LDP's five factions, is beefing up its campaign to promote their boss as a successor to Hosokawa by trying to collect signatures from some 100 LDP members to back Watanabe's bid for power.

Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) and Komeito [Clean Government Party], two of the key parties in the ruling coalition, have been considering the possibility of fielding Watanabe as a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, should the influential LDP figure bolt from the LDP along with a large number of his cohorts.

Although Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, the leader of Shinseito, is widely seen as the favorite for the premiership, the squabbling coalition has yet to break a stalemate in the selection of a candidate to succeed Hosokawa, who offered to resign April 8.

Hosokawa, 56, will stay on as caretaker until a replacement is named.

Watanabe Rejects Kono Plea Not To Leave LDP

OW1504114394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1110 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Friday [15 April] turned down a request by Liberal Democratic Party president Yohei Kono not to break with but to defend the unity of Japan's largest opposition party.

Watanabe, head of the LDP's third largest faction, also expressed his readiness to form a new alliance with Shinseito and Komeito, the two key parties in the governing coalition, in order to "surmount the crises now confronting this country."

Watanabe, a former deputy prime minister and concurrently foreign minister of the once-dominant LDP, made the remarks after two hours of talks with Kono.

Earlier in the day, Japanese mass media reported that Watanabe had decided to quit the LDP to form his own party.

"We held extremely serious talks," Watanabe told reporters after emerging from his bargaining session with Kono, who paid a visit to the factional leader at his political office in his faction's headquarters.

Watanabe said, "I told him (Kono) it is necessary for politicians of the same political opinions and doctrine to band together to form an alliance in order to surmount the crises now confronting this country, from the standpoint of making full-fledged efforts to save the country."

Watanabe was apparently referring to the political ideals of intra-coalition forces led by the chief coalition strategist Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of Shinseito, the core coalition component.

Ozawa has advocated the same stand as Watanabe on such key issues as Japan's role in UN peacekeeping missions, tax system reform and the need to take a tough stand against the suspected North Korean nuclear arms program.

Kono told reporters he has not given up his efforts to persuade Watanabe not to break away from the LDP, which lost its 38-year lock on power in a 1993 general election following a series of defections.

Kono said he told Watanabe he does not have any intention to give up his own bid for the premiership in the Diet election for the post.

Kono said he told Watanabe, "I will take the responsibility as the president of the LDP."

A majority of LDP legislators have voiced their support for Kono's bid to run for the nation's stewardship, party sources said.

Watanabe said, however, he told Kono he also intends to run in the parliamentary vote for a new prime minister.

No date has yet been set for the vote to pick a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who announced his resignation on April 8.

Watanabe also expressed his intention to change the nature of the current coalition, telling Kono, "I will become the torchbearer who will drive a wedge into the governing coalition's structure by advocating the LDP's policies."

The remark apparently reflects Watanabe's long-time criticism of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the largest party in the ruling coalition, which he has repeatedly blasted as "distorting the policies of the coalition."

LDP sources said Kono and Watanabe agreed to resume discussion next Monday in an attempt to reconcile their differences over Watanabe's possible defection and his avowed bid to seek the prime ministership, while monitoring whether the coalition parties are able to narrow their gulf over the succession issue.

LDP secretary general Yoshiro Mori later told a news conference that Watanabe gave no indication of his possible breakaway from the LDP in the talks.

"The point is that Mr. Watanabe and LDP president Kono shared serious perceptions of the current political situation," Mori said.

During the meeting, Mori said, Watanabe told Kono that he wants to join hands with those whose basic policies are close to his own as long as the LDP is in opposition and cannot directly take part in the management of national politics.

"That's what I call a 'moderately conservative' political setup," Mori quoted Watanabe as saying.

Kono retorted, however, that the LDP should take a wait-and-see attitude toward the current political development following Hosokawa's abrupt decision to call it quits last week.

"It is evident the coalition government will suffer a major collapse next time around," Kono reportedly told Watanabe.

Watanabe and Kono agreed to continue their talks and to hold another round as early as Saturday, Mori said.

Reiterates Plan To Form Party

OW1504035394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Former Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe reiterated a wish Friday to run for a prime ministerial election, suggesting forming a new political party by breaking away from the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Watanabe told reporters ahead of a meeting with LDP President Yohei Kono on Friday afternoon that "I am groping for (a way) to realize our ideas and principles."

But Watanabe did not give a specific answer to a question of whether he has already decided to leave the LDP and set up a new party, saying, "now is not the time to declare it."

Asked when he will make an official announcement of his candidacy, Watanabe said, "I have to talk with my party's colleagues before speaking out on a final decision."

Kono is to meet with Watanabe in a last-ditch effort to settle on a sole LDP candidate for the prime ministerial election.

Political sources said Watanabe's remarks suggest he will reject Kono's request for giving up his candidacy, which may lead to a breakup of the LDP.

Although ousted from its 38-year grip on power last August by the coalition government led by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, the LDP remains the largest force in the Diet.

Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, once a mentor of Watanabe as the former head of his faction, denied the possibility of Watanabe forming a new political party, saying that such a move "is not imminent."

Hata Suggests Possible Coalition

OW1504035994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Marrakech, Morocco, April 14 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, the favorite to become next prime minister, suggested Thursday [14 April] the ruling coalition could forge ties with Michio Watanabe if the former foreign minister leaves the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"There are no differences (with Watanabe) on major issues," Hata told reporters late Thursday night in Marrakech, Morocco where he is attending a ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Hata, leader of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], cited Watanabe's resignation from the main opposition LDP and a pledge to pursue political reforms as preconditions for cooperation with the ruling seven-party coalition.

"There is room for negotiation on many points," Hata said. "I do not think Mr. Watanabe will oppose the reform path."

Five Liberal Democratic Party Members Resign

OW1504050794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0448 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Five House of Representatives members of the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) bolted the party and another five members plan to quit the party, LDP sources said Friday.

The move came amid reports that former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe has decided to break away from the LDP, launch a new party and vie to succeed outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Michihiko Kano, Masahiko Kitagawa, Goji Sakamoto, Takao Sato and Teruhiko Mashiko, members of a faction led by former Trade Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, submitted letters of resignation to the LDP leadership, party officials said.

Seiichi Ota, Shokei Arai, Koji Kakizawa, Taku Yamamoto and Shizuo Sato also plan to quit the party, the party sources said.

Earlier in the day LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori told a news conference the LDP should maintain unity over the choice of its candidate for the premiership.

"In any event, the best way for our party to return to power is to pull together and remain united," Mori said.

Mori said he will closely monitor a meeting between LDP President Yohei Kono and Watanabe on Friday afternoon.

Kono is expected to ask Watanabe not to run for the premiership in order to avoid a major split of the LDP.

Kano told reporters his group will form a new party aimed at bringing about a realignment of political parties. Kano's group is expected to team up with Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], a key party in the coalition. Ota and four others are members of a suprafaction policy study group called "liberals," which has urged Watanabe to run for the premiership.

SDPJ Conditions for New Party Participation

OW1504111394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1002 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP), the largest component in the governing coalition, will demand setting approval from all the coalition parties if a new party will take part in the eight-month-old coalition, SDP officials said Friday [15 April].

At a hastily set meeting of the Central Executive Committee, the party's leadership body, the SDP decided to ask other coalition partners to attach the condition to participation of a new party, the officials said.

The SDP's move is apparently intended to block a group led by Michio Watanabe of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from joining the coalition.

Watanabe, who served as deputy prime minister and concurrently foreign minister under then Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of the LDP, which fell from power last August following failure to seize a majority in last July's general election for the House of Representatives.

Watanabe is widely reported set to leave the LDP and form a new party in an attempt to pursue ambitions to succeed outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who announced his resignation on April 8.

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who is head of the coalition's core party Shinseito, is currently considered the most likely replacement to Hosokawa.

JNP, DSP Decide To Form Policy Study Group

OW1504111794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The Japan New Party (JNP) and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), two of the seven parties in the ruling coalition, will form a joint policy study group as early as the end of this month, party sources said Friday [15 April].

At the beginning of next week, Muneaki Samejima, deputy secretary general of the JNP, and Kansei Nakano, the DSP's policy board chairman, will begin preparing for the forum to study policies to achieve a better quality of life for Japanese people, they said.

The alliance will take over a suspended JNP plan to ask other coalition parties to join "Kaikaku (Reform)," the JNP's parliamentary group in the House of Representatives, the sources said.

The launching of the group, however, means that the DSP will join the reform in the future, they said.

The JNP, led by outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, disbanded a parliamentary alliance with new party Sakigake (Harbinger) led by Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura shortly after he announced his resignation on April 8.

It then formed the reform with two United Social Democratic Party members including Science and Technology Agency chief Satsuki Eda and began urging other ruling parties' members to join.

But the JNP suspended its campaign as ruling parties fell into deeper disagreement over selection of Hosokawa's successor.

Another reason for the suspension was that some JNP members objected to allying with Shinseito and Komeito—two powerful forces in the coalition.

Forming Government 'More Important' Than Budget

OW1504152894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1503 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Ichiro Ozawa, the ruling coalition's chief strategist, said Friday [15 April] that it is much more important to form a stable government than to enact the overdue state budget for fiscal 1994 that started April 1.

At a news conference, Ozawa said, "there are opinions urging enactment of the budget but it is much more important to establish a stable political structure through necessary discussions."

Ozawa, secretary general of the coalition's core party Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], has urged other coalition components to cement agreement on such key issues as tax reform and the stance toward North Korea's suspected nuclear program before picking a successor to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who on April 8 said he will step down.

Meanwhile, Hajime Funada, a senior Shinseito member, said Friday that agreement on tax reform is the minimum requirement for policy discussions that start Saturday among deputy heads of coalition parties.

Speaking at a ceremony to commemorate the establishment of the party's chapter in Ustunomiya, Tochigi Prefecture, Funada also said that Shinseito will play a key role in selecting a successor to Hosokawa.

Tanaka Defends Economic Recovery Forecast

OW1504084094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0751 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Japan's top economic planning bureaucrat Friday [15 April] defended the government's forecast of an economic recovery to 2.4 percent growth this fiscal year.

Tsutomu Tanaka, vice minister of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), told a Tokyo audience he personally agrees with the agency's forecast for the year that began this month.

But he said the EPA has not ruled that the economy has hit bottom, which Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii and Bank of Japan governor Yasushi Mieno indicated Thursday may be nearing.

Noting that the official forecast is more bullish than that of most private economists, Tanaka suggested that they "tend to underestimate the strength of business recovery" in reversing from the nation's worst postwar slump. He also noted that some economists have recently raised their forecasts to 1.4 percent growth for the fiscal year. They previously had predicted about 0.5 percent growth on average.

"The overall economy is still sluggish," he said but added that signs of "brightness" have recently spread beyond personal consumption, the biggest single engine for economic growth that has rebounded since late last year.

Households have nearly finished adjusting to "excessive" purchasing of consumer durables in the late 1980s boom, and consumer sentiment will continue to improve in coming months, Tanaka said.

On another major component for recovery, Tanaka acknowledged that the agency's forecast of roughly flat fiscal 1994 corporate capital spending "contrasts very sharply with private forecasts," which show a third straight year of decline.

Tanaka said there are "signs of bottoming out" in machinery orders, which anticipate movements in capital spending. That trend is not clear yet, he said, adding that a fixed investment turnaround is necessary for economic recovery.

He cited concern over employment, but said the worst fears for job security are over. Conditions will worsen a bit further before recovering, he said, but predicted little chance of another "major adjustment process."

Another area of uncertainty is foreign exchange, with companies needing the yen to fall to around 117 to the dollar to "feel comfortable" about their profits, Tanaka said. The dollar closed Friday in Tokyo at 103.95 yen, up 0.95 yen from the previous day.

If the yen stays high, boosting prices of Japanese exports in other currencies and crimping the yen value of repatriated profits, "the impact of that on the economy will not be negligible," Tanaka said.

But he played down concerns that the delays in passing the fiscal 1994 budget, due to the nation's political turmoil, could harm the economy.

Citing a backlog of investment to be executed from the current provisional budget and the third supplementary budget for fiscal 1993, he said, "There will be a smooth continuation of the budget investment programs despite the fact that the budget process is delayed."

Tanaka also predicted no significant inflationary impact from much-criticized hikes in public fees.

Corporate Bankruptcies Decrease in 1993

OW1504053694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0437 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The number of corporate bankruptcies in Japan fell 2.9 percent in fiscal 1993 for the first dip in four years, despite staying above

14,000 for the second straight year, a private credit research agency reported Friday [15 April].

Corporate failures with liabilities of 10 million yen or more numbered 14,019 in the year ended March 31, while liabilities left by the bankrupt firms slid 10.7 percent to 6.65 trillion yen for the second consecutive yearly fall, Teikoku Databank said.

The amount of liabilities was the third largest on record, it said. The record for liabilities was 7.77 trillion yen in fiscal 1991 when the economy was hard hit by a stronger yen.

Despite the overall decline in business failures, the number of recession-induced bankruptcies or those going bankrupt due to poor sales climbed 14.6 percent to 8,645, signaling that the economic slump still drags on, the agency said.

This type of bankruptcy accounted for 61.7 percent of total failures, up 9.5 percentage points from the previous year, it said.

Corporate failures were at high levels throughout the entire year with over 1,000 failures reported each month, during the worst economic slump in decades.

The findings come at a time when the economy is showing brighter signs in some sectors and as Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno has declared the worst is over.

But Teikoku Databank said Japan is still mired in the prolonged economic slowdown despite signs of recovery in some sectors, and noted that a full-fledged recovery is not expected until 1995, judging from such negative factors as the strong yen and an increase in long-term interest rates.

In March, corporate failures fell 4.3 percent from a year earlier to 1,282 cases with liabilities shrinking 40.2 percent to 463.62 billion yen, the agency said.

March was the second consecutive month in which business failures fell from the year-earlier level, but it was the first time in three months they have risen above 1,200, it said.

In the latest reporting month, the number of recession-induced failures dropped 5.8 percent from a year earlier, but their share of total bankruptcies exceeded 60 percent for the eighth month in a row.

Such bankruptcies totaled 789 cases, compared with 838 cases a year earlier.

Initial Prefectural Government Budgets Increase

OW1504083994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Initial fiscal 1994 budgets of prefectural governments nationwide, including the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, totaled 48,371.1 billion yen, up 3.0 percent from the previous year, the Home Affairs Ministry said Friday [15 April].

The growth rate for prefectural budgets for the year that started on April 1, excluding the budgets of Ishikawa, Kyoto and Nagasaki prefectures, was 3.4 percent, compared with 3.7 percent for the national government's local fiscal program for the year.

The three prefectures had compiled only minimal budgets due to their gubernatorial elections.

In the prefectural budgets, excluding those of the three prefectures, public works projects financed by local governments alone were expanded 10.0 percent from the previous year to help stimulate the economy.

The rate was lower than the 12.0 percent growth rate for the fiscal 1994 local fiscal program.

Tax Panel Chief Urges New Regional Tax

OW1504120594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1016 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The head of a government tax panel indicated Friday [15 April] his support for adopting a new regional tax instead of simply raising the consumption tax as a new tax revenue source.

"It could be a tax on consumption...but new thinking is necessary," Kan Kato, chairman of the Tax Commission, an advisory panel to the prime minister, told reporters after a panel meeting.

Noting that the views were personal, Kato, emeritus professor at Keio University, said regional governments need their own tax sources to decentralize national authority and to improve regional social welfare.

His proposal apparently stems from a welfare tax plan that called for permanent cuts in national income and regional residents' taxes to offset a 7 percent welfare tax, which was proposed to replace the 3 percent consumption tax.

Under the current consumption tax system, the national government collects the tax and distributes a given amount as tax grants to regional governments.

The plan drew strong opposition from the Social Democratic Party (SDP)—The largest of the ruling coalition parties—and was scrapped a day after Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa announced it in February.

But the SDP has recently relaxed its stance on accepting a higher consumption tax in view of increasing welfare costs amid an aging society.

Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii maintained his opposition to a regional consumption tax in his recent press meeting.

Kato said the issue will be discussed thoroughly at a working group for regional tax that was officially formed at Friday's panel meeting.

The group of 11 private experts will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, aiming to issue a report in May, Kato said.

The panel meeting centered on burden sharing between tax and social insurance in line with a welfare vision for the 21st century that was compiled by an advisory forum to the health and welfare ministry in March, Kato said.

He noted the panel will next meet on April 22 to continue studying welfare from broader aspects.

In line with requests made by Hosokawa at the first meeting on April 8, the commission is discussing permanent income and residents' tax cuts and net tax increases to realize a balanced tax system to cope with an aging society.

A final report offering several options for politicians to decide later is slated for issue in June.

Automakers Urge Minivehicle Standards Expansion

OW1504093994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0922 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Minivehicle manufacturers are seeking expansion of standards for minivehicles to improve their safety levels to those of regular-size vehicles, an industry association reported Friday [15 April].

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said the move was initiated by the association's special committee on minivehicles headed by Osamu Suzuki, president of Suzuki Motor Corp.

The association will formally decide on details of standard expansion, including the size of vehicles and maximum engine capacity, association officials said.

They said it is likely that the maximum engine capacity for minivehicles will be raised to 800 cc from the present 660 cc.

The Transport Ministry will launch a study on the modification of minivehicle standards after the committee comes up with a formal proposal, the officials said.

Petrochemical Practices 'Hindering' Competition

OW1504142194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1336 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Petrochemical companies should change some of their business practices which seem to be hindering price competition, the Fair Trade Commission said in a report Friday [15 April].

The commission said Japanese petrochemical firms generally negotiate with customers on prices for domestically produced naphtha by taking into account the average price for imported naphtha over a three-month period.

Although the practice was formed based on a Ministry of International Trade and Industry "administrative guidance" in 1982, it seems to be a problem in terms of promoting fair price competition in the industry, the commission said.

In addition, the practice of setting prices for domestically produced resin higher than those for imported resin is also a problem, it said. The situation stems from reasoning that domestic firms provide after-sales service.

The commission also said joint sales ventures should be disbanded because they appear to hinder competition. There are seven such ventures at present, set up by petrochemical firms for sales of general-purpose petrochemical products.

The commission, however, said that since the autumn of 1992, prices for five petrochemical products, including naphtha and ethylene, had appropriately dropped along with import prices for the products' raw materials. The drops reflect the yen's rise against the U.S. dollar on foreign exchanges during the period.

Strategic Importance, Future of DRAM Industry Discussed

942A0083A Tokyo CHOSA in Japanese Jan 94 pp 14-25

[Report by Mitsubishi Bank Research Section]

[Text] **Growing Strategic Importance of DRAM Industry**

1. Problems Surrounding DRAM Industry
2. Increasing DRAM Standing as a Strategic Commodity
3. Demand for Improvements in Efficiency

Introduction

In the midst of an unprecedented slump, the industrial world is undergoing extensive restructuring through the elimination of unprofitable units, cutbacks in investments in plants and equipment, personnel reductions, plant closures, and other such measures. This downsizing has even touched what has been considered until now "sacred ground"—namely, research and development. In order for a country like Japan without any notable natural resources to continue its prosperity into the 21st century, however, there is no alternative but to give technology a central place in its industries. It is an undeniable fact that excessive restructuring will destroy its global competitiveness. A case in point is the dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) industry, which is one of Japan's representative high-technology fields. As investment costs soar, outsiders and not a few industry insiders have begun to voice their concerns about its future. There is also concern about the narrowing gap between Korea and Japan. In the following sections, the authors have sorted through some of the problem points that face the industry while giving their projections about its future direction.

1. Current Problems Surrounding the DRAM Industry

"Semiconductor integrated circuit" (IC) is really a collective term that covers a broad area. Roughly divided, it covers logic devices, such as the chips that perform the "logical decisions" of a computer, and memory devices, which store information. Microprocessor units (MPU's), which are the processing and control units in computers, are typical of the former; DRAM, the subject of this article, is typical of the latter.

Since entering the DRAM market in the latter half of the 1960's, Japanese manufacturers, as part of a national effort, have steadily built up their strength by making full use of Japan's superior manufacturing technology and, in 1982, finally moved ahead of the United States to place first in the world in their field. However, when the supply-and-demand balance for 4-megabit DRAM memory (hereafter, 4M), collapsed after a better-than-expected start, problems such as those discussed below suddenly came to the surface, bringing with them serious concerns about the industry's future.

A.. Soaring Investment Costs

The first problem is rising investment costs. Generally, heavy investments in equipment are needed to manufacture integrated circuits, but the burden is even greater when it comes to DRAM and even heavier still for improvements in levels of integration. The reason is that, compared to MPUs, where the "soft" aspects of circuit design are of the greatest importance, in the case of dynamic random access memory, higher value-added is sought on the "hard" side—in other words, in finding ways to integrate more memory elements on a fixed surface—and production is always being carried out with investments in the latest processing technology and equipment. Every three to four years, the level of integration for DRAM chips increases fourfold, an improvement which requires a higher degree of precision and complexity in the manufacturing process. Capital investments for the standard DRAM plant[1], adequate at the 30 billion yen level for 1 megabit of DRAM memory, increased to 50 billion yen for 4 megabits and to 80 to 90 billion yen for 16 megabits and may even go as high as 100 billion yen for 64 megabits. It is unclear what the investment efficiency is for individual DRAM businesses, but certainly efficiency is getting poorer with these increasingly enormous amounts of capital outlay, and many in the business are concerned whether they can turn a profit.

B. Korea's Rise to Prominence

Second, there is Korea and the speed with which its enterprises are catching up with Japanese's DRAM industry. Although Korea entered the field only in the mid-1980's, its three *zaibatsu*-affiliated companies (Samsung Electronics, Gold Star and Hyundai Ltd.), backed by a wealth of funds, have been pouring their investment dollars into the DRAM field. As a result, in terms of today's leading 4-megabit DRAM chip, Korea is said to be "shoulder-to-shoulder with Japan in mass production technology." In terms of volume, Korea has caught up with the United States and is second only to Japan. An "export drive"—where Korean companies are exporting products to the United States at prices 10 percent or so cheaper than Japanese goods—seems to be an important factor here, and many people share the pessimistic view that Japan will be outdistanced by the Koreans some day in the same way that Japan earlier took the lead over the United States. With products like dynamic random-access memory, manufacturers are not only faced with the struggle to improve precision and use the latest technology but, since generations change every three to four years, their products very quickly become out-dated, and the existence of a low-cost player who can rapidly bring down prices represents a very big threat.

C. Rising Investment Risk

Investment risks have gotten higher primarily because of technological advances. The need for higher integration has always preceded the birth of DRAM chips. Before, if technology failed to keep pace with new needs, manufacturers could put money into developing new products without all that great a risk. With the coming of the "mega" age, however, that has changed. With a lot of experience and development know-how behind them, manufacturers have been able to shorten the time it takes to develop new products and to calculate when to make such investments. For DRAM, a product which uses the latest technology, experience brings with it a rapid improvement in yield during the initial period of production. This gives rise to the kind of phenomenon or pattern one always sees; namely, a temporary imbalance is effected between supply and demand, which in turn causes prices to drop sharply. It becomes quite significant, then, that it has become possible for manufacturers to manipulate their timing. It is commonly known that when it came time for 1-megabit DRAM, while the majority of companies were reluctant to invest during the recession, others, by investing aggressively, were able to enjoy large profits during the initial period when the market was still undersupplied. The opposite happened with 4-megabit DRAM. Not wanting to repeat the mistake they had made with 1M DRAM, companies all rushed ahead to invest. Unfortunately, this happened to be an "off-crop" season for new electronic products, and in addition to widening the supply-and-demand gap through their own making, they brought about a large drop in profits. This happened recently enough to still be fresh in the industry's memory. In a word, the fact that manufacturers could manipulate their investment timing worked against them, giving rise to a situation where they could easily be influenced by the moves of every other player. This in turn has raised investment risks in the DRAM industry.

2. Increasing DRAM Standing as a Strategic Commodity

As these problems became clear, companies have adopt plans—for example, to expand their application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) and MPU units—which are intended to "break [their] reliance on DRAM." In industrial circles, there is deep-rooted skepticism about the value of the DRAM industry itself, and one commonly hears criticisms that "DRAM is not a moneymaker" or "DRAM is low-level technology." However, one would have to say that too light a view of the DRAM industry is not only economically very dangerous but also strategically very dangerous.

A. High-Growth in DRAM Demand Expected

First of all, even compared to other semiconductors, DRAM will continue to be a high-growth product. That is because the demand for more bits (one bit, it will be remembered, is a single memory cell, or unit) is a demand for devices with larger memory capacity, which is essentially a demand for more DRAM, and this demand is expected to continue to show a high level of growth. Because they were disappointed in their expectations of the 4M during its initial period on the market, many manufacturers felt that "the need for higher integration might be on the decline." But, as mentioned earlier, the problem was mainly on the supply-side, and in fact, there have not been any signs since then of a slowdown in the growth in bit-demand. On the contrary, besides expecting to see more in the way of an information society in the future, one can expect to see "downsizing"—the shift toward smaller equipment—become the main current in computers. For example, if users shift from mainframes (which cost 500 million yen on average and have 8 gigabits of memory) to personal computers (costing 300,000 yen, with 32 megabits of memory), the total memory per unit price (bits/price) increases about sevenfold, clearly showing that the same investment dollar buys much more in the way of DRAM memory. In fact, if we compare the amount of DRAM required by these two types of equipment for the years 1987 and 1992, we see that personal computers have significantly boosted the demand for memory. It is projected that in the future the amount of memory required by computers will increase sharply as MPUs and software improve[2]. Certainly, it would not be an exaggeration to say the "age of large DRAM memory consumption" is coming. In fact, taking time trends over the past 10 years to estimate the growth rate over the next five years[3], the authors projected that demand will still continue to grow at around 46 percent on average.

It seems that growth of 20-30 percent in the money base can also be anticipated. Of course, there will probably still be a sharp drop in production; this seems to be unavoidable when there is a changeover from one generation to the next one. Generally, the shift to a new generation occurs when users feel it is to their advance to use a next-generation product rather than an existing product. The pattern with DRAM chips, because of improvements in yield, shows that next-generation DRAM prices (i.e., the unit price per bit) will move sharply downward, falling below prices for existing generation DRAMs when the older and newer generations cross paths (bit-cross). But, besides expecting the price of both generation DRAM's to drop, one also expects to see production volume [as measured in dollars or yen] fall below levels attained during the heyday of the outgoing, previous-generation DRAM. The reason is that there will be less demand for the outgoing generation of DRAM chips as users shift to newer products having four times as much memory capacity; on the other hand, demand for newer products will not grow sufficiently to make up for this decline. It is the essential nature of the DRAM industry that this pattern of generational change will keep repeating itself, and around each changing of the guard this kind of dip will probably occur. However, looked at in medium and long-range terms, DRAM production [as measured in dollars or yen], sustained by a growth in bit-demand, can be expected to continue to show double-digit growth[4], and when considered in terms of semiconductors as a whole, can be expected to maintain a high level of growth, second only to that of MPU's.

B. Spread Effects From DRAM Industry

Another reason for aggressively developing Japan's DRAM industry can be seen when one considers the strategic importance of this industry and the beneficial spread effects its development will have on the semiconductor industry as a whole.

As mentioned earlier, DRAM utilizes the latest semiconductor manufacturing processes, and by maintaining the field, Japanese manufacturers are sustaining the world's top manufacturing technology. It is not a matter simply of the technology being new. By putting to use manufacturing technology acquired during DRAM production or by utilizing manufacturing equipment that has already been paid off through DRAM production, they will make it possible to manufacture products other than DRAMs smoothly and at low cost. In that sense, DRAM continues to be the "foundation" of semiconductor production and Japan's "engine of technology."

Another trend that has been attracting attention in particular these days is the increasing demand for more advanced manufacturing technology for high-growth microprocessing units. During these past several years, there have been remarkable improvements in MPU performance. But higher performance also means more complicated circuits and, inevitably, higher levels of integration and, thus, more investment dollars. According to estimates, total investments for the microprocessing giant Intel's next-generation MPU's, including the cost of manufacturing more units, will reach 500 billion yen, or 20 times the cost of its current MPU's. (Investment in the 4-megabit DRAM developed by Japan's top manufacturer totals about 200 billion yen.) On the other hand, more manufacturers are entering the MPU field. Thus, the price competition among them is heating up, and even in the case of MPU's, which are considered a typical high-value-added product, an important question that has started to be raised is how businesses can hold down plant and equipment investment costs and manufacture their products cheaply. In short, even in circuit design (the "soft" side of the coin), superior manufacturing technology is needed and without it, MPU businesses have become increasingly likely to fail. In fact, barring only a few exceptions, American manufacturers who have withdrawn from the DRAM business[5] are said to be having a very tough time making MPUs. This, then, may be an opportune time for Japanese semiconductor makers to give full play to the production technology they have built up and their proficiency in manufacturing products while achieving a good yield. Of course, even if Japan does try to enter the field, it is still behind in terms of the software that is necessary for MPU production and it will not immediately be competitive in the MPU field. But, clearly, it would be to Japan's advantage to build up its strength in those areas, such as microprocessors, where it is lagging behind the United States and, in the meantime, expand its efforts in "second source" enterprises to manufacture MPU's under license from American makers. While contributing its production know-how, it will also be gaining additional MPU know-how.

Needless to say, aggressive investments in development are the best way to widen the gap between Japan and Korean competitors who are close on its heels. Certainly, Korean manufacturers have rapidly gained strength and, according to some analysts, will be bigger suppliers of the next-generation 16M than Japan. But it is also a fact that a gap still exists between the two countries, and if Japanese makers continue to invest as they have until now, it is fully possible that Japan will be able to maintain its present edge. One reason is that Korean manufacturers are still heavily dependent on Japanese and American technology. They are currently paying out over 10 percent of their sales for patent licenses, several percent points higher than what Japan is paying, and are said to be planning to continue aggressively importing new technology in the future. As can be seen, too, in the fact that Koreans are behind in circuit design technology, a point that will be touched on later in this report, Japan can still be considered ahead of Korea in terms of technology. Nor has Korea nurtured the growth of its semiconductor equipment manufacturing industry. Recently, joint development has been moving forward between Japanese and American semiconductor equipment makers, but just as the underdevelopment of the parts sector has become a weak point in Korea's consumer electronics industry, the lack of its own, domestic semiconductor equipment industry, the foundation for other related industries, is a major weakness. Thus, Korean manufacturers still have not shaken themselves free of their position as "trailers after Japan." What seems to be essential in order for Japan to maintain this lead are investments in the DRAM industry.

Thus, the DRAM industry in Japan is faced with a number of problems. But as the competition among countries heats up, rather than losing its importance as a product that Japan has led the field with until now, dynamic random access memory is becoming even more important for Japan than ever before. The new turn taken in the direction of MPU's is definitely not a mistake. Given the fact that Japan is still not fully competitive in this area, its semiconductor industry cannot continue to develop and prosper without the development of enterprises where the DRAM remains the core product.

3. Demand for Improved Efficiency

Future plans must then address the question of how the operations of the DRAM industry can be carried out more efficiently[6]. Steps already being taken by companies are described below.

A. Keeping Investment Costs Down

The first step is to hold investment costs down as much as possible. In order to achieve the kind of fast-paced, fourfold improvements that have occurred in integration every three to four years, it has become necessary for companies to invest aggressively in research and development, but with the "mega" age, the huge cost of development is climbing even higher. Companies are thus actively going into joint development projects—primarily with U.S. manufacturers—in an attempt to cut back even a little on their investment costs.

Increasingly popular also is the move seen among manufacturing plants to use their equipment and facilities in common to the extent possible and to use the same equipment for two or more DRAM generations. Manufacturers have already been setting up [assembly] lines to introduce new, next-generation technology during the latter half of the preceding generation's lifetime and creating the flexibility to produce two generations of DRAM. Recently, they have also been trying to cut down on costs by designing their plants and equipment (with the exception of those used for precision processing) so they can be used from one generation to the next. They have also been trying to cut costs by eliminating whatever differences they can in the methods used by different plants, which have operated in the past in all but a disjointed, uncoordinated fashion. Moreover, in areas where manufacturers have been competitively near equals, there has even been a move to standardize equipment across companies. Thus, it is not an exaggeration to say that "economization" has now become a key word for every company.

B. Controlling Supply Quantities; Seeds of Such a Technology Are Beginning To Sprout

As mentioned earlier, when the balance between supply and demand is upset during the start-up period, it leads to a steep drop in prices which, in turn, has a negative effect on profits. To avoid such situations as much as possible, companies have aggressively been looking into technology to control supply in terms of quantity, or volume. Typical of such technology is the single-wafer processing method; here, in the manufacturing process, silicon wafers (on which circuits are to be etched) are processed one piece at a time. In the "batch method," the main method used at present, 50 to 150 pieces are processed in one lot, leading to rapid improvement in yield along with a greater supply [of silicon chips] than may have been expected. This is one of the major reasons that the gap between supply and demand widens. By contrast, with the introduction of the single-wafer method, it becomes possible to a greater extent than at present to control supply quantities while achieving higher yields. Understandably, companies are thus moving ahead with preparations to seriously introduce this method from the 64-megabit DRAM on.

C. Making DRAM a High Value-Added Product

Attempts are also being made to further establish a segregation of niche with Korea. DRAM is typical of a product that has a broad range of uses. And recently, as user needs have become more diversified, headway is being made in further diversifying DRAM's uses and turning it into an even higher value-added product: for example, as a "low-energy consumer," suitable for portable [computer] terminals; as a "high-speed" product, able to process voice and image data together in a single lump; and as a "special purpose DRAM," where memory sits on a single chip along with a logic circuit. In as much as such products differ from standard products in requiring circuit design and control technologies, it would seem that at present it would be hard for Korea to manufacture them on a large scale; for Japanese manufacturers, this may be an expedient way to avoid direct competition with Korean products. For low-grade products, manufacturers have already started to procure OEM [original equipment manufacturing] items from Korea and are moving into high value-added products while using Korean power to the extent possible for these low-grade items. This move toward creating separate niches will probably gather even more steam as time goes by.

D. Overseas Development

Until now, overseas development has referred primarily to 1) the opening up of markets in Europe and the United States in order to ease trade tensions, and 2) assembly production in Asian regions, where the aim has been to reduce the cost of labor-intensive processing. In only a few cases has large-scale production been carried out consistently in areas of high demand. But with the yen's appreciation to unprecedented levels, on the one hand, and with demand markets scattered randomly in different regions, on the other, it has become more important than ever for manufacturers to establish a global supply system. As products become more diversified, shortening the geographic distance between users and suppliers also takes on an important meaning from the viewpoint of accurately deciphering user needs and reducing the time for shipment and delivery. This disordered state is still evident in the overseas strategies of companies, but globalization is inescapable and will probably bring about a rapid overseas shift.

Conclusion

When the situation is viewed in this way, it becomes clear that recent perspectives on the DRAM industry often confuse its "essentially cyclical nature" with its "strategic significance." Certainly, the relative weight given to DRAM in Japan's semiconductor industry is becoming less significant, dropping from the 50 percent-and-above-level it has occupied thus far to the 30 percent-level today. With investments increasing yearly, it seems to some that DRAM is only becoming a heavier and heavier burden. However, as the authors have already mentioned, it is DRAM which continues to support Japan's semiconductor business, and recklessly weakening this support and curbing investments will not only lower the competitiveness of the semiconductor industry as a whole but also shake the very foundations of a country built on technology. In this sense, investment strategies developed from a long-term perspective can be seen as the very means by which to maintain a "high-tech Japan." While caution about ballooning investment costs is necessary, so too is a change of perspective necessary—a change where manufacturers will be seeing "a return on their DRAM investments through semiconductors."

Footnotes

1. The example is for standard DRAM plants which process 200,000 silicon wafers per month; with the 4-megabit DRAM chip, currently the industry's main product, this is equivalent to a plant which produces 3 million units per month.

2. For example, the Pentium, which [Intel] hopes will become the main, next-generation microprocessing unit, requires about four times more DRAM for existing equipment (see following).

3. The method used to make this estimate was as follows:

$$Y = 31.13701 + 233.1478x,$$

where Y = average change in bit-demand over a three-year period, X = the reciprocal of the time trend, or 1/time trend, and $R^2 = 0.8799$, $D.W. = -2.76$.

4. Hypothesizing that the unit price per bit would show a consist drop due to technological innovations, the authors estimated unit price, using trends over the past 10 years; by multiplying this estimated unit price by bit-demand, they came out with a 28 percent or so growth rate in DRAM-demand over the next 5 years. More specifically, the unit price per bit was estimated as follows:

$$Y = -0.003341714 + 0.09791906x + 0.01502765d$$

where Y = unit price per bit and x = reciprocal of time trend, or 1/time trend, d = dummy variable (in 1984 and 1988, the years that 256K and 1M started to be mass produced in earnest and the unit price of bits rose, the value "1" was assigned to the dummy variable; "1" was not assigned in 1991 although that was the year mass production was started in earnest on the 4M. Because demand at the beginning lagged, the unit price of bits fell sharply).

$R^2 = 0.8799$, D.W. = 2.76

5. With the coming of the "mega" age, American manufacturers have withdrawn one after the other and at present, only three companies, Texas Instruments, Motorola, and Micron Technology, are continuing in the business. The first two are engaged in joint development with Japanese manufacturers. In part, this [withdrawal of companies] may be an indication that an aggressive turn has been taken in the MPU field. The primary reason, however, is that there are many specialist manufacturers in the United States who have not been able to keep up with the heavy burden of investing in equipment and research and development. As a result, American manufacturers are behind Japan in technological innovations and their mass-production systems.

6. As mentioned earlier, investment efficiency for DRAM alone is not clear. However, recovery seems to be the underlying tone for the semiconductor industry as a whole. According to a leading manufacturer, DRAM profits are "still showing adequate improvement."

North Korea

Activities Celebrate Kim Il-Song's Birthday

National Meeting Marks Birthday

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[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—A national meeting took place at the 6,000-seat theatre of the February 8 House of Culture here today to celebrate the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

A portrait of the great leader President Kim Il-song was placed on the platform of the meeting hall.

The meeting was attended by O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and minister of People's Armed Forces, Premier Kang Song-san and Vice Presidents Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol and Kim Yong-chu who are Politburo members of the C.C., WPK, Vice-President Kim Pyong-sik who is chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, and other senior party and state officials.

Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army known as the incarnation of faith and will, was present at the meeting.

Also attending the meeting were the members of the congratulatory group of Koreans from Japan led by Yi Chin-kyu, first vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), which is visiting the homeland to participate in the April 15 celebrations, and other congratulatory groups, delegations and visiting groups of Koreans overseas from different regions of the world, Choe Hong-hui, president of the International Taekwondo Federation, and other Koreans overseas.

Premier Kang Song-san made a report at the meeting.

He said the Korean people in the North and the South and abroad and the world's revolutionary people are significantly celebrating the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as a great auspicious fete of the nation and as a common revolutionary holiday of mankind.

The whole course of the revolutionary activities of Comrade Kim Il-song is shining brilliantly as decades of tremendous struggle and creation in which he has devoted his all to the national liberation and prosperity and to the people's freedom and happiness, the reporter said, and went on:

Comrade Kim Il-song is an unexcelled great man and an elder in the world revolution who has brought about a fundamental change in the destiny of our nation and made immortal contributions to the human cause of independence, the cause of socialism, covering the whole course of his life with the 20th century which witnessed a new epoch in the history of the struggle for human liberation and great changes on the world political map. Human history records many high-reputed leaders of the working class, but it knows no such a leader as respected Comrade Kim Il-song who has adorned the most profound, diverse and long annals of heroic epic with the greatness of his leadership and the rich content of his exploits in triumphantly paving the path of the revolution through raging storms and with his influence on the times and the development of history.

Comrade Kim Il-song is the great leader of the working class and other working masses with extraordinary ideological and theoretical wisdom, leadership ability and virtues.

He is a great master of thought and theory who founded the chuche idea reflecting the demand of our era, the era of independence, indicated the path of the Korean revolution and provided the working class and other working masses with an invincible weapon for freedom, liberation and socialism.

Basing himself on the chuche idea, he propounded theories, strategy and tactics for all stages and fields of the revolution to realise the independence of the popular masses and systematized the leadership method to guide the people's cause of independence to victory, thus developing the revolutionary thought of the working class to a new, higher stage.

He is a great statesman and a genius of creation and construction. With an unexcelled clairvoyance, scientific penetration, iron will and rare leadership ability, he trained the Korean people into a revolutionary people with a strong sense of independence through the application of the chuche idea and victoriously led the difficult and arduous Korean revolution in reliance on the inexhaustible strength of the people and built a powerful country of chuche, an impregnable fortress of socialism, in the East of the world.

He wisely guided the work to strengthen the driving force of our revolution and enhance its role, pushing through manifold trials and crossing the deathline and thus liberated the lost country, founded the Workers' Party of Korea, a new type party, and consolidated it into a steel-like party.

He made much effort to firmly equip our people with a revolutionary idea of independence and train them into an invincible combat unit harmoniously united with the party by giving definite precedence to the ideological revolution and consolidated the driving force of our revolution into an unbreakable socio-political organism.

His clairvoyance finds expression in that he perfectly prepared the inheritance of the revolutionary cause as required by our revolution and people's desire from long ago with an insight into its historical necessity and gave guidance in firmly establishing the organisational and ideological basis and leadership system of the party to carry forward the revolutionary cause of chuche to a brilliant completion through generations.

In Korea today, the invincible Workers' Party of Korea firmly stands in the centre of the revolutionary ranks, and the popular masses, who have withstood all trials, sharing their destiny with the party in the protracted course of revolutionary struggle, are unreservedly displaying their creative ingenuity in the revolution and construction, united around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in one mind, upholding the noble intentions of the great leader with loyalty.

The whole party, the entire army and all the people has formed a mighty driving force to successfully carry forward the revolutionary cause of chuche to accomplishment through generations, firmly united around the dear leader in one idea and purpose on the basis of revolutionary obligation and noble comradeship. This shines as the most precious feat which will remain recorded forever, which Comrade Kim Il-song has performed for the party, the revolution and the people, putting forth all his energy till this day.

Comrade Kim Il-song has resolved all the problems independently and creatively in conformity with the specific conditions of our country from the chuche-based stand in the whole period of his revolutionary activities, carried out the anti- imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and the socialist revolution successfully and in a unique way and accelerated socialist construction to perform feats for the century in building socialism of chuche on this land where independence, self-sustenance and self-reliance in national defence have been definitely realized.

Noting that he is a tender-hearted father with a noble virtue of holding the people dearest, the reporter said: The idea "believing in the people as in heaven" is the great ideological source of popular politics which he has applied consistently as the maxim of his life.

The feats performed by Comrade Kim Il-song in leading the revolutionary struggle and constructive work of our people along an ever-victorious road are a most precious revolutionary wealth which is of immortal significance in the revolutionary cause of the working class and other popular masses for independence. They will shine forever along with the onward movement of history and the revolutionary cause of our party and people advancing under his guidance will be always invincible.

The whole party and the entire people should hold tighter the socialist banner of chuche, upholding the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in order to defend the socialist cause from the anti-DPRK, anti-socialist moves of the imperialists and reactionaries and further develop it.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said:

"The whole party and the entire people must fully support the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il to defend our socialism centred on the popular masses and successfully accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche. Herein lies the firm guarantee for carrying forward the socialist cause to accomplishment."

In order to firmly defend and accomplish the socialist cause of chuche started by Comrade Kim Il-song and promote the reunification of the country, big efforts must be continuously directed to the strengthening of the singlehearted unity of the party and the revolutionary ranks around the leader and uninterrupted innovations be effected in socialist construction, the reporter said.

Noting that the United States and its followers, the South Korean authorities, are rushing headlong along the road of confrontation and division and bringing the situation in Korea again to the perilous brink of war, committing all manner of perfidious acts, the reporter said: This only reveals their vulnerability.

He further said:

We do not like empty words.

The entire people and officers and men of the People's Army will maintain a more mobilized and strained posture than ever before in face of the prevailing situation and, if the enemy unleash a reckless war of aggression, ignoring our patient peaceloving efforts, the army and people will unite in one body and mete out a stern punishment to the enemy and resolutely defend our socialist motherland and the sovereignty of the nation under the ever- victorious leadership of the supreme commander of our revolutionary Armed Forces Comrade Kim Chong-il so that it could not tread on an inch of our land and a blade of grass.

Then a speech was made by the head of the congratulatory group of Koreans from Japan visiting the homeland to celebrate April 15.

Kang Song-san Speaks on Occasion

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[Speech by Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and premier of the DPRK Administration Council, at a central report meeting marking DPRK President Kim Il- song's birthday held at the 8 February Hall of Culture in Pyongyang on 14 April—live]

[Text] [applause] Comrades: Today our people are significantly commemorating the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's birthday—the greatest national holiday—amid the socialist general march we are accelerating overflowing with a great pride in firmly defending, protecting and glorifying popular mass-centered socialism of our country, which has embodied the chuche idea.

Marking this day, the entire nation overflows with endless emotion and hope, and is filled with the sense of boundless admiration of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Brothers in the South, who are courageously fighting for independence, democracy, and national reunification; all overseas compatriots; and the revolutionary people of the world; are also significantly commemorating the great leader's birthday as a great national holiday and as a common revolutionary congratulatory event of mankind.

The entire course of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary activities has been brilliantly embroidered with annals of gigantic struggle and of creation during which he dedicated everything to the nation's happiness [haengbok] and prosperity and to the people's freedom and happiness [haengbok]. [applause]

Under the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's leadership, our revolution traversed the victorious road of honor by breaking through various trials and difficulties. Even amid a grave situation in which the imperialists and reactionaries are more viciously waging anti-socialist and anti-Republic maneuvers more than ever before, our revolution is vigorously advancing without wavering even a slightest degree by demonstrating indomitable nature of the chuche revolutionary cause.

Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people, pioneered our revolution after embarking on the road of national liberation at an early date by shouldering the destiny of the fatherland. He constantly led our people's cause of independence—the socialist cause—along the single road of victory with uncommon wisdom and outstanding leadership. He made immortal achievements in the progress of mankind and in the development of world revolution. At this significant occasion to mark the revolutionary April holiday, the greatest national holiday, I extend the greatest honor and warmest congratulations to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song together with ardent admiration and unanimous loyalty and the sense of reverence of all party members and people. [applause]

Comrades, our people victoriously carried out the difficult and complex struggle for the nation's sovereignty and prosperity under the banner of the chuche idea for a long period of time since the Korean revolution was pioneered. The greatest national fortune that our people have during the entire course of this sacred and valuable struggle is the fact that we are upholding the great leader at the van of the revolution.

As was illustrated by the course of revolutionary struggle of the working class and working people for independence, only when the popular masses, although they created history and developed society, come under the precise leadership of the leader [suryong] who organizes and leads their struggle, can they have the position and play the role of the independent main force of history.

Only when the popular masses come under the leadership of the outstanding leader, can they become the master of their destiny and pioneer the independent and creative life. This has been clearly proven by our nation's ordeal-filled past and by today's brilliant reality.

Our people upheld the respected Comrade Kim Il-song—the great leader—for the first time in a national history of several thousand years and came under the wise leadership of the leader. As a result, we could emerge as a glorious people who are in charge of the chuche revolutionary cause. We could free ourselves from being the most miserable sufferers of a history of affliction. Thus, our people came to have the honor of being the independent people who are pioneering the victorious road of socialism—the valuable revolutionary road. [applause]

Because we uphold the outstanding leader [suryong] who has great ideas and leadership and the matchless leader [cholseui yongdoja] at the van of the fatherland and revolution, our people became strong and dignified people who are confidently pioneering the victorious road of socialism even amid unprecedented worldwide political storm without a slight degree of wavering by upholding the chuche revolutionary banner.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song opened a new origin in the history of struggle to liberate mankind, and brought about a basic turn in our people's destiny in the 20th century, when great changes were registered in world politics, while leading his life. He is a peerlessly great man and an elder statesman of world revolution who made immortal achievements in the socialist cause, the cause of independence of mankind. [applause]

History of mankind has recorded up to now a great number of reputed leaders of the working class. However, there was no such a leader as the respected Comrade Kim Il-song who victoriously shaped the revolutionary road and illuminated profound, diversified and long heroic annals with greatness in leadership, with richness in achievements, and with the influence over development of time and history. [applause]

The respected Comrade Kim Il-song is the great leader of the working class and working people who has ideological and theoretical wisdom and leadership and unprecedented moral character. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song created the chuche idea which reflected the demand of our era—the era of independence—and illuminated the road of Korean revolution. He is the great thinker and theoretician who provided the working class and working people with invincible and ever-victorious weapon for freedom, liberation and socialism. [applause]

The people's destiny can be pioneered only under the leadership of the correct ideology. The socialist society can develop along the correct road of advance without wavering even amid the whirlpool of history only when it is led by the revolutionary idea which correctly reflects the demand of the time and aspirations of the people.

The cases in many countries where socialism collapsed in recent years seriously illustrate that when the people face an ideological crisis without precise guiding ideology, their destiny would be cruelly trampled underfoot by traitors of the revolution and (?opportunists) and the revolution, which victoriously developed through arduous struggle, would fail midway, and thus the people cannot avoid painful frustration.

Because the immortal chuche idea brightly illuminated the road of our advance, our people could attain victory and made advance by upholding the banner of independence—the revolutionary banner—without any deviation over a long period of time up to present while pioneering difficult and complex road of revolution in the outdated colonial semi-feudalistic society in Asia.

The chuche idea created by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the most correct guiding ideology for the revolution and construction which reflected the independent aspiration and demand of our era and of the working people. [applause]

Based on the chuche idea, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song elucidated all theories, strategy and tactics for all steps and all domains of revolution to achieve independence of the popular masses, and carried to accomplishment the method of leadership to lead the cause of independence of the popular masses to victory. Thus, he developed the revolutionary idea of the working class onto a new higher stage.

Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary idea, which proceeded from and has embodied the principle of the immortal chuche idea, is the precious fruition of the great leader's long, profound, diversified, unique and encyclopedic ideological and theoretical activities. Creation of the chuche idea is the greatest, shining achievement made by the respected leader before time and mankind. [applause]

Today the imperialists and all sorts of the enemies of the revolution are clamoring that the collapse of socialism in many countries means a victory of capitalism and an end of socialism, thus, advertising that the ideology of socialism is wrong. This is a complete [word indistinct] of history and realities and is nothing but a foolish sophistry designed to block the driving force of scientific socialist idea.

The course of the Korean revolution which has victoriously pioneered the road toward independence, the road toward socialism, through its protracted struggle and the centuries-long transformation and today's world trend of seeking independence vividly prove the universal truthfulness of the chuche idea that the idea of socialism is correct and that men who are the persons directly in charge of its realization are precisely the masters of everything and decide everything.

The chuche idea, which sparked early in the dawn of the Korean revolution and has fully demonstrated its correctness and vitality through the practice of protracted revolutionary struggle, has become the basis of the socialist ideology, which is most superior in our times and the lifeline of our country's ever-victorious and invincible socialism. It has also become the immortal beacon and the encouraging banner of the world's revolutionary people who love justice and truth and who seek independence. [applause]

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the great statesman and the genius of creation and construction who has built a powerful country of chuche and an invincible fortress of socialism in the Orient of the world by embodying the chuche idea with his matchless farsightedness, scientific insight, iron-like will, and extraordinary leadership ability and by not only fostering our people into a revolutionary people who have strong sense of independence, but also leading the complicated and arduous Korean revolution to the single road of victory on the strength of the inexhaustible might of our popular masses. [applause]

Already in the early period of his embarkment on the road of the revolution, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song elucidated the noble truth that the basic problem in the popular masses' struggle for independence is first of all to organizationally and ideologically awaken the popular masses, who are the main force of the struggle for independence, and, thus, to enhance their creative roles. Since then, the great leader has wisely led the work of strengthening the main force of our revolution and enhancing its role while personally surmounting numerous trials and crossing countless deadlines.

The anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song was the glorious revolutionary struggle which firmly built the main force of our revolution; which, on the strength of it, developed the anti-Japanese struggle for national liberation of our country and the Korean communist movement to a new high stage and realized the cause of national liberation; and which, thus, provided our party's brilliant revolutionary tradition. In his anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle period the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song, as the young general of his twenties and as the immortal legendary hero, received absolute trust and infinite reverence from all of the nation and victoriously led the overall Korean revolution which centered on armed struggle. As a result he provided the powerful main force of the Korean revolution, regained the divested fatherland for our people, and, thus, recorded an immortal, new victorious chapter in the history of the oppressed people's struggle against colony and for national liberation. [applause]

That the respected and beloved great Marshal Kim Il-song founded the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], the new type of chuche party, and has strengthened and developed it into an iron-like party is the great historic achievement which has provided a guarantee for certain victory in firmly strengthening the main force of our revolution and in achieving the final victory in the socialist, communist cause in our country. [applause]

Even in the complicated and confusing situation right after the liberation, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song completed the cause of founding our party, which he had persistently carried out from the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and strengthened and developed our party into the powerful staff office [chamobu] of the Korean revolution. As a result, our people could possess their own tested leading political organization, strongly unite around the party, and vigorously advance revolution and construction.

The entire course of the struggle which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song waged to found our party and strengthen and develop it was a worthwhile course for building a new chuche-type party. And, for the first time in the history of our country's party building, a [calligraphy] brush was embossed in the party's emblem in addition to the hammer and a sickle during the days of this honorable struggle. This was a valuable experience in building a popular masses-oriented party.

We have fully embodied the theory of chuche in party building and party work under the correct leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party Central Committee. As a result, the WPK today fully demonstrates its strength as an invincible party that has embued itself with a single idea [sasangjok ilsaekhwa], achieved organizational unity, and put down deep roots among the popular masses based on one idea, the leader's [suryong] revolutionary idea, and as a mature and tested party with a bright future that firmly ensures continuity in ideology and leadership [sasanggwa yongdoui kyesungsongul hwakkohui pojang] and leads the people's cause of independence to victory. [applause]

Based on the fundamental principle of the chuche idea, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has attached great importance to indoctrinating and reforming the people in a revolutionary manner, given top priority to the ideological revolution, and made strenuous efforts to arm our people with revolutionary ideas and raise them into an invincible combatant rank that has achieved harmonious unity [honnyon ilcherul irun] with the party. In this way, he has consolidated the rock solid main forces of our revolution into a social and political organism with a force that no one can break. This is an immortal achievement.

Today our people have become revolutionary people who have strong independence, and such people cannot be found anywhere else in the world. This is because they possess a high sense of independence and are strongly united around the party under the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The noble ideological and spiritual feature [pungmo] of the Korean communists and our people who were raised under the care of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is that they strongly believe their leader [suryong] and their party and devote themselves to carrying out the chuche revolutionary cause after being strongly united around them [their leader and their party]. This is the solid ideological and spiritual basis of the single-hearted unity between the party and the popular masses in our country.

In consolidating the main forces of our revolution's trait of being as solid as a rock, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has wisely led the work of responsibly building the party's organizational and ideological basis and leadership system for responsibly taking care of the people's destinies in both the distant future of the fatherland and of the revolution. In this way, he has provided a firm guarantee for inheriting and completing the revolutionary cause. This was an immortal achievement. [applause]

The revolutionary cause of establishing independence among the popular masses is carried out continuously generation after generation. And, we must carry out, in a farsighted manner, the work of strengthening the main forces of the revolution in compliance with the demand of the revolution's development to ultimately complete this historic cause.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's most brilliant foresight lies in the fact that he earlier perceived the historic inevitability of victory in the revolutionary cause, made complete preparations for such a victory in compliance with the demand of our revolution and the earnest desire of our people, and strongly built the party's organizational and ideological basis and leadership system for brilliantly inheriting and completing the chuche revolutionary cause generation after generation.

Today, in our country the WPK stands firmly at the center of the revolutionary ranks. It also is single-heartedly united around the popular masses' dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has shared the same destiny with the party and overcome all trials through the prolonged revolutionary struggle. It also loyally upholds the great leader's lofty intention and and fully demonstrates its creative power in revolution and construction.

The entire party, the entire Army, and all people have formed powerful main forces that will brilliantly inherit and complete the chuche revolutionary cause generation after generation after being united around the dear comrade leader based on a revolutionary moral obligation, noble comradeship, and a single idea and will. This is the noblest achievement that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has devotedly brought about for our party, revolution, and people throughout his life and that will be cherished in the hearts of people of all generations. [applause]

Today, the expression "single-hearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses" can only be applied to our country. The single-hearted unity has entered a phase of full development in our generation under the leadership of our supreme commander General Kim Chong-il through a grand march for modelling the whole society after chuche and for implementing the programs. [applause]

Our people's single-hearted unity centered around the great leader and the great party is the source of the might and invincibility of our country's socialism and fundamental factor for our revolutionary cause to remain unshaken in any storm, continue for generations, and become ever-victorious.

By independently and creatively solving all problems in chuche point of view and in compliance of our country's situation during the entire course of his revolutionary activities, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song brilliantly carried out anti-imperialist, antifeudal, democratic, and socialist revolution, accelerated socialist construction, and established chuche-based socialism on this land where independence, self-reliance, self-defense are firmly realized, thus marked an achievement of the century. [applause]

The popular masses-centered socialism of our own style, which is today deeply rooted in our country gaining absolute support and consent of all the people, is the greatest exhibit of our revolution established by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song through arduous struggles all his life, and is the cradle of our people's life and happiness. [applause]

Our country, which in the past had once lost its glory in the world's map, creatively carried out various democratic plans after the liberation, provided an excellent prerequisite for the continuous implementation of socialism, stood firm in the international stage holding the banner of the DPRK, which is proud of the name, built up its own regular revolutionary armed force, displayed the honor of the heroic Korea in the world after the war by winning great victory in the fatherland liberation war against the armed bandit aggression of U.S. imperialists, which proudly called themselves the world's strongest, consolidated a firm basis of self-reliant national economy after the war with the Chollima great advance on the ruin where everything was destroyed by the war, and established an advanced socialist system. These are brilliant fruitions of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song's firm chuche-oriented position and ever-victorious indomitable strong will, and extraordinary leadership, and the great victory of the party's chuche line. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song created the world's model of socialism by elucidating all the aspects of the new socialist and communist construction theory and method in the chuche point of view after the victory of the socialist revolution and establishment of the socialist system in our country, by wisely leading our party and people to carry them out. [applause]

Our future is brightly enlightened by the line of the three revolutions of ideology, technology, and culture on continuous revolution under socialism as elucidated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. Because of the great leader's outstanding and tested leadership, the works of reforming people's ideology and fostering communist humans, which are decisive factors for defining the development and destiny of socialist society after the establishment of a socialist system in our country, are guaranteed with precedence and ceaseless miracles. Innovations were marked in economic and cultural construction due to the masses' upsurge in revolutionary enthusiasm and creativity, brilliant achievements were made in the work of making all the society members revolutionary, working class, and intellectual, and of making the people's economy chuche- oriented, modern, and scientific, and of consolidating the socialist, political and ideological basis and material as hard as rocks. [applause]

Today, all people are equally enjoying the most worthwhile and happiest lives in all areas—political, economic, and cultural—as genuine masters of the state and society in our county. Genuine socialism, where all people enjoy independent and creative lives without exploitation and oppression while being practically guaranteed the social equality at a same material and cultural living standard, is what mankind had dreamed simply as an ideal for centuries and what many revolutionary martyrs desired and bled for by devoting their valuable lives. This genuine socialism has come true in our country and is now vigorously demonstrating its unique charms and boundless vitality in the world.

In our country, socialism has become our people's firm faith and unalterable daily routine, and it has also become inseparable with our destinies. It is the destiny of socialism, our people, and our fatherland. [applause]

The chuche socialism, which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has pioneered by devoting all his life, and to which all people entrust their destinies and their future, is constantly being advanced and developed in a new and higher stage for modeling the entire society after the chuche idea under the leadership of the respected and beloved leader [chidoja] General Kim Chong-il.

In the genuine society of the people, where chuche [word indistinct] has brilliantly been embodied, each person highly displays beautiful communist traditions under the collectivist slogan, "One for all, and all for one," lives the most worthwhile political life that an independent human being can enjoy, a sound and abundant cultural life, and an equal and happy material life, and vigorously advances while foreseeing the prosperous future of the fatherland and the revolution, filled with hope and optimism. This is the true look of chuche Korea, which advances perfectly along the socialist road under our party's leadership. [applause]

Today, socialism of our country has constantly and firmly [?emerged and developed to be] an invincible fortress that no frantic maneuver [parakchok chaektong] by imperialists or reactionaries can dare to smash.

Our people have firm faith in the justness and invincibility of the chuche socialist cause, which they themselves chose and firmly consolidated with their own strength under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, and they are filled with the fervent resolution to fight to achieve its ultimate victory.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a benevolent parent who has the lofty trait of endlessly loving the people. [applause]

After personifying his love for the people at the highest level, respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has embroidered the most brilliant history of serving the people during the whole course of his revolutionary activities.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has shared everything with the people during his whole life, considering the truth, "One can gain the world when one believes and depends upon the people, and one will be always defeated when one leaves the people and is abandoned by them," to be a historic lesson. He has practiced the best politics for the people while sharing sufferings, joy, blessing, and happiness with them.

The ideology of serving the people as though they were heaven is the great ideological source of the people-oriented politics that the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has invariably embodied and considered as his lifelong maxim. [applause]

With lofty ideology, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has brilliantly pioneered the victorious road of the revolution together with the people on the road of his arduous struggle which was full of ups and downs without stepping back or hesitating once.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song has said that it is precisely our people who give him courage, faith, and encouragement during difficult periods of the revolution and that it is also our people who give him wisdom and methods that enabled him to lead revolution and construction on a correct road. Even today, through his on-the-spot guidance, he is directing great efforts to realize our people's long-cherished desire—for everyone to eat white rice and meat soup, live in a tile-roofed house, and wear silk clothes—at the earliest possible date.

All of the people-oriented policies in our country today are the noble fruition of the great leader Comrade's great love for and confidence in the people. [applause]

The respected and beloved leader's invariable love for the people is a boundlessly broad fatherly bosom which warmly embraces all the people without discrimination. [applause]

Thanks to the great leader's bosom of love as broad as an ocean, millions of our party ranks have been brought up, the indomitable revolutionary force of arms have been firmly prepared, and the entire society has become one big revolutionary family which is united with comradery.

Thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's warm solicitude that is as broad as an ocean, an amazing development is being witnessed today in which those who once engaged in anticommunism, turning away from the country and the nation, now devote themselves to patriotic and nation-loving work. They have transformed themselves to live true lives. Likewise, a legend has been created in which an invincible fighter of the WPK, who had kept revolutionary principles and integrity for decades amid the enemies' evil acts and appeasement, has been embraced to the socialist fatherland's bosom. Whether they are in the North, in the South, or abroad, and irrespective of what ideology, political view, faction, religion, and history of political life they have had, they are all joining in the sacred cause of reunification, looking up to the respected and beloved Kim Il-song as the great father of the nation. This is because the leader's bosom is so warm and broad. Because our people have the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has the most sublime virtue, as their father, they entrust all their destiny and future to the leader and enjoy rewarding and happy lives in the bosom of the leader.

The leader has the people in mind, and the people truly trust the leader from the bottom of their hearts and uphold him with utmost loyalty and filial duty. This is the great ethos of our society and the great pride of our chuche fatherland today. [applause]

Truly, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song—who has made immortal achievements in the cause of independence and the cause of socialism of the popular masses for the protracted period of time since he initiated the Korean revolution under the banner of the chuche idea up to this day with his outstanding ideology, extraordinary leadership, and noble virtue—is the great lodestar of the struggle for the complete liberation and eternal happiness of mankind. [applause]

Today, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has been waging the struggle for the fatherland, the people, and the revolution day and night throughout his whole life, is still wisely leading the entire party, the whole country, and all the people to the historic march for the victory of the socialist cause and for the independent reunification of the country today with his vigorous energy and extraordinary revolutionary sweep, standing at the head of the revolution. Immortally significant in the revolutionary cause of the working class and the masses of working people for independence, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's achievements registered in leading our people's revolutionary struggle and construction to an ever-victorious road are the noblest revolutionary assets which will shine forever along with the advance of history, while the revolutionary cause of our party and our people who are advancing under the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's leadership remains ever-victorious and invincible. [applause]

Comrades: Our revolution, which has surmounted multilayered barriers in victoriously advancing under the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's leadership, is today vigorously advancing to a new developing stage, and our party and people are faced with heavy but honorable revolutionary tasks today.

The internal and external situation of our revolution is still complicated and tense, and safeguarding and defending the socialist cause from the anti-republic and antisocialist maneuvers perpetrated by the imperialists and reactionaries and further developing the socialist cause are the lofty and responsible duty that our party and people have been assigned for the times and (?the revolution). To successfully perform this important duty it is imperative for the entire party and all the people to uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership and to advance forward, more firmly grasping the banner of chuche socialism. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: To defend our country's popular masses-centered socialism and to brilliantly comsummate the chuche revolutionary cause it is imperative for the entire party and all the people to properly uphold Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership. The firm guarantee for inheriting and consummating the socialist cause lies precisely in properly upholding Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership.

The chuche revolutionary cause pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is synonymous with our party's revolutionary cause, and the fundamental key to brilliantly consummating our party's cause, that is, the chuche socialist cause, lies precisely in upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideology and leadership. [applause]

Although the imperialists and reactionaries are perpetrating the antisocialist and anti-Republic maneuvers today more viciously than ever before, any high-handedness, threat, or blackmail by the enemy cannot frighten our people who are advancing along the dear comrade leader's leadership and upholding the great leader nor can they block our march. [applause]

Even under today's complicated situation we should always cherish in our hearts the infinite national fortune of upholding the great leader [widahan suryong] and the great leader [widaehan yongdoja], who is leading with certainty the chuche revolutionary cause to the single road of victory with iron-like will and matchless courage, and excellent strategies and tactics, should more properly uphold the party and the leader [suryong] with infinite loyalty, and, thus, fly the banner of chuche socialism higher as the enemies' challenge becomes more vicious. [applause]

To firmly safeguard and defend the cause of socialism of chuche pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, to consummate it to the end, and to expedite national reunification, it is imperative to continuously concentrate great efforts on strengthening singlehearted unity of the party and the ranks of the revolution in the future as in the past.

The singlehearted unity of our party and the ranks of the revolution today are being deepened steadily by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who has mastered the features and talent as the people's leader. Carrying out the Korean revolution to the end by following the Paektu march under the party's leadership is precisely the firm faith and will of our people. [applause]

We should more firmly defend the singlehearted unity of our revolutionary ranks which has been firmly deepened under the party's leadership and should further consolidate and develop it.

All party members and the working people should make loyalty to the party and the leader [suryong] as their firm faith, conscience, and moral root with the firm faith and strong will that as long as the great leader [widaehan suryong] and the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] stand at the forefront our revolution will be victorious without fail and should demonstrate this loyalty in every moment of their daily life.

All party members and the working people should firmly arm themselves with the revolutionary ideology, that is, the chuche idea, should think and act only according to the party's ideological will, and should become the fortress and shield which resolutely safeguards and defends the party and the leader [suryong] politically, ideologically, and with life.

Holding aloft the slogan, "What the party decides we will do," Thoroughly implementing all lines and policies set forth by the party by holding aloft the slogan, "What the party decides we will do" and, thus, effecting a constant upsurge in socialist construction is an important task which arises in strengthening the might of the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style and in exalting its superiority highly.

Upholding this year's New Year address by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, tasks he set forth at the 21st plenary session of the sixth party Central Committee, and his historic letter to the national agricultural meeting, all party members and the working people should bravely surmount all difficulties and barriers with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, which is the banner of the victory of our revolution, and should accelerate the general march of socialism with the spirit of adding the speed of the nineties to Chollima. Thus, they should thoroughly implement the party's agriculture-first, light industry-first, and trade-first policy; should firmly give priority to coal industry, power industry, and railway transport; and should continue to develop metal industry. In this way, they should effect innovations in all sectors of the national economy.

Today, the United States and its follower, the South Korean authorities, are not only perpetrating various acts of breaching faith, but are also dashing further toward the road of confrontation and division, thereby again leading the situation of our country to the dangerous brink of war. However, the provocative acts of outside forces and the flunkeyist, nation-selling Kim Yong-sam ring who flatter and submit to outside forces, are being recklessly perpetrated after losing the ability to reason, and only reveal weakness.

We do not like to utter empty talk. All the people and officers and men of the People's Army will maintain a mobilized and tense posture [tongwondoego kinjangdoen taese] more firmly than ever before to cope with the prevailing situation, and if the enemies ignite the fuse of a reckless war of aggression by turning away our patient peace-loving efforts, our Army and people will unite as one and impose stern chastisement on enemies and resolutely defend our socialist fatherland and our nation's sovereignty under the ever- victorious leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander of our revolutionary armed forces, in order not to allow them to arbitrarily touch even one inch of land or a blade of grass in our fatherland. [applause]

Under today's situation, we should further strengthen the country's barriers; make firm political, ideological, and military preparations to actively counter any of the enemy's provocative acts; and thoroughly set up an ethos of actively supporting the People's Army and valuing the Army throughout the entire society.

Keenly realizing the party's slogan, "We serve the people!" all functionaries should deeply mingle with the masses, further inspire their revolutionary zeal and creativeness, become a standard-bearer in implementing the party's line, and set practical examples in all work by standing at the head of the masses. Thus, they should become true loyal servants who are devotedly working for the people.

Only victory lies ahead of our people who are staunchly fighting to defend the chuche socialist banner with conviction in sure victory and revolutionary optimism under the wise leadership of the party and the leader [suryong]. [applause]

Upholding the banner of the chuche idea and the three revolutions of ideology, technology, and culture, let us all vigorously advance toward new victory in the revolution in firm unity with the party Central Committee headed by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-Song. [applause]

Together with the people's ardent loyalty and endless admiration for the respected and beloved leader, I respectfully wish Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people, good health and long life, national reunification, everlasting prosperity for the nation, and accomplishment of the chuche revolutionary cause. [applause, shouting of hurrah]

Long live Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people! [applause, shouting of hurrah]

Long live the glorious WPK, the organizer and guide of all triumphs of the Korean people! [applause, shouting of hurrah]

Yi Chong-ok at Birthday Seminar

SK1304045594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—A national seminar was held here Tuesday on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The seminar was attended by Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and Vice- President Yi Chong-ok, Secretary of the C.C., WPK Kim Ki-nam, Vice- Premier of the Administration Council Chang Chol, officials concerned, party cadres and men of science, education, culture and art and the press.

Speeches were made at the seminar on various subjects including "The Respected Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Is a Great Thinker and Theoretician Who Has Laid an Ideological Foundation of Socialism Centred on the Masses", "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Is a Genius of Creation and Construction Who Has Laid Solid Material and Technical Foundations of Socialism" and "Respected Comrade Kim Il- song Is a Great Leader of the Revolution Who Has Provided Basic Guarantee for Carrying Forward the Socialist Cause of Chuche To Accomplishment".

The speakers were unanimous in saying that the respected leader whom the whole world looks up to as the sun of mankind is a distinguished leader of the era of independence who started and has led to victory the socialist cause of chuche with his unique idea and great revolutionary practice, regarding it as his maxim in life to "believe in the people as in heaven", and a benevolent father of the people who is bringing into reality an independent and creative life, the age-old desire of mankind, with his politics of trust and love.

Noting that the respected leader is a great thinker and theoretician who has provided the lifeblood of the Korean-style socialism by creating the immortal chuche idea, the speakers pointed out that he has successfully built a great pyramid of socialism by consistently applying the political idea of independence with his unswerving revolutionary faith and firm will.

They explained that the great leader set forward the most correct guideline for the working-class army building and military activities by founding the chuche-based military thought with self- reliance in independence as the core and fostered invincible military forces capable of guaranteeing the socialist cause with credit.

Saying the great leader has, for the first time in the history of the communist movement, perfectly solved the question of carrying forward the guidance of a political leader and provided a basic guarantee for the completion of the socialist cause, they stressed that this is the greatest of exploits performed by him.

Egyptian Envoy Hosts Reception

SK1304051394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Korea 'Ali Hijazi hosted a reception Tuesday on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Invited there were Vice-president Kim Pyong-sik and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop and officials concerned.

Ambassador 'Ali Hijazi in his speech said the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song is a tender-hearted father of the Korean people. "His wise guidance is the main factor in working wonders in your country," he stressed, adding:

"He has led the Korean people for a long time to make great achievements in socialist construction.

"Deep friendship between the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song and esteemed His Excellency Muhamad Husni Mubarak marks an important occasion in developing the friendly relations between the two countries.

"The two countries are closely cooperating in external relations and have identical views on international issues, too."

He said the president and government of Egypt hope that Korea would be reunified in a peaceful way at an early date.

Vice-president Kim Pyong-sik in his speech expressed deep thanks for the government and people of Egypt for the support and sympathy they have rendered to the just cause of the Korean people for socialist construction and national reunification.

Noting that under the guidance of esteemed His Excellency President Muhamad Husni Mubarak the Egyptian people are positively striving to achieve the social stability and economic development, find a fair and lasting solution of the Middle East problem and turn the Middle East region into a nuclear-free, peace zone without all kinds of mass destruction weapons, he stressed: "We express firm solidarity for the just cause of the Egyptian people."

Songs Presented by Overseas Koreans

SK1304113594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1103 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Loud songs of loyalty sung by overseas Koreans are ringing out from the stages of the 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival which is open in Pyongyang in celebration of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Participating in the festival are an art troupe of Koreans in Japan, an art troupe of Koreans in China and an art troupe of the International Federation of Koreans for Reunification.

The art troupe of Koreans in Japan is putting on stage "Song of Best Wishes Presented by the 700,000 Compatriots" at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

The tune, song and dance "Holiday" is the curtain-raiser of their colorful program consisting of soloes, choruses and dances. In "Holiday" the performers say that the 700,000 Koreans in Japan wholeheartedly extend congratulations to the great leader, becoming flowers of loyalty and filial piety, calling the spring holiday in April, the month of his birth, a spring holiday of Korea, a spring holiday of the sun.

Hong Yong-wol, a "Kim Il-song Prize" winner and people's actress, passionately sings the song "Leader, Please Accept our Wishes" to be acclaimed by the audience.

Merited actor Yi Yong-su in the solo "A Happy Memory" sings loudly that Marshal Kim Chong-il is the father, saying that his deep loving care and broad smiles always give new courage and show a bright road.

The dancers in the dance "Spring Flowers" present on a vivid canvas the loyal hearts of the people in the homeland and the 700,000 Koreans in Japan who will always hold the dear leader Marshal Kim Chong-il in high esteem to the tune of the song "Flowers in Full Bloom All Over the Country", with light red fans in their hands.

The Korean artistes from China are putting on stage the narration and song "Let us Sing of our Bliss in Having Sagacious Leader" and other numbers, touching the heart's cord of the audience. The performers loudly sing of the pride and happiness of the Koreans who are enjoying all the blessings of the world, though they are living in an alien land, as they have the great leader and the dear leader.

The performers of a woman solo and trio, in the song "Our General is the Greatest", highly laud the greatness of General Kim Chong-il who is the dearest father of the soldiers of the Korean People's Army, who calls at posts among bushy young pine trees and travels with them through the sky and the sea and who deals a sledgehammer blow at the enemy.

The artistes of the International Federation of Koreans for Reunification are putting on stage the dance "Night of Pyongyang, Don't Advance", the female duet "The Old Home in the Snow," the female solo "I am Your Eternal Son" and other numbers.

The dance "Night of Pyongyang, Don't Advance" makes the audience feel the national pride of living in the socialist homeland under the guidance of the great leader and the dear leader.

The audience are deeply impressed by the performances of overseas Korean artistes who find it hard to repress their longing and reverence, embraced in the bosom of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song and the dear leader Marshal Kim Chong-il.

Tokyo TV Allowed To Cover Event

OW1504021394 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1018 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Interview via telephone with Toshiro Kishi, NHK correspondent in Pyongyang, by NHK announcer Yoshiaki Kawabata at the NHK studio in Tokyo—live]

[Text] [Kawabata] An event will be held in Pyongyang tomorrow marking the 82nd birthday of North Korean President Kim Il- song. North Korea has allowed a group of NHK correspondents and correspondents from an American television station to cover the event, issuing them visas.

North Korea has permitted the NHK correspondents to cover the event for the first time in twenty months. Pyongyang has refused to permit foreign correspondents to cover activities in that country in the intervening time. North Korea's decision to permit foreign correspondents to cover the event amid mounting international tension following its refusal to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency is drawing attention. I will interview NHK correspondent Yoshiro Kishi who is now in Pyongyang.

Kishi, the 82nd birthday of President Kim Il-song will be celebrated tomorrow. What is Pyongyang like?

[Kishi] It is fine in Pyongyang and the temperature is high. The streets are festooned with national flags and a variety of flowers to celebrate the North Korean leader's birthday. Tomorrow is a national holiday. I see many women carrying large shopping bags believed to contain food for picnics. There is a festive mood in Pyongyang. I anticipated military tension over the so-called nuclear issue before I arrived here, but see no signs of such tensions at all in Pyongyang.

[Kawabata] Kishi, you visited Pyongyang two years ago. Have you found any changes this time?

[Kishi] Yes. I visited Pyongyang to cover the 80th birthday of President Kim Il-song. At the time, a pompous event was held to celebrate his birthday. This time the event is likely to be relatively low key.

[Kawabata] Kishi, North Korea has allowed NHK and American correspondents to cover the event. Why has North Korea decided to permit them to do so?

[Kishi] To be honest, we were hard-pressed to obtain visas from North Korea. I heard that President Kim Il-song and Secretary Kim Chong-il made the final decision. Military tensions have been mounting on the Korean peninsula over the so-called nuclear issue ever since a solution through dialogue has been stalemated. The acceptance of NHK and American correspondents by the North Korea leaders is of great significance. I have felt North Korea's strong will to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully through dialogue. I will pay attention to how North Korean authorities will deal with our coverage activities.

[Kawabata] Thank you very much.

Kim Il-song Receives Foreign Birthday Greetings

SK1304050194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Messages of greetings were sent to the great leader President Kim Il-song by heads of state and party leaders of different countries on the occasion of his birthday.

The messages came from Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Burkinabe president, head of state and President of the Council of Ministers Blaise Compaore, General Secretary of the Party of Revolution of Benin Ali Houdou, chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Burundi Party of Unity for National Progress Nicolas Mayugi and acting leader of the February 18th Movement of Trinidad and Tobago Vincent Cabrea.

The messages extend warmest greetings to President Kim Il-song and wish him good health and long life.

They express firm solidarity with the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people in their efforts for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Kim Il-song Meets With Visiting Delegations

SK1504103594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today received foreign high-level delegations and delegates at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall who paid a congratulatory call on him.

They were a delegation of the National Democratic Congress of Ghana headed by its general secretary Huudu Yahaya, a delegation of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan headed by its co-chairman P. V. Svoik, a delegation of the Workers' Party of Ireland headed by its general secretary Pat Quearney, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Turkey Yalsin Buyukdagli, a delegation of the Liaoning Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China headed by its secretary Gu Jinchi, a delegation of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil headed by member of the political commission and secretary of the movement Sergio Rubens, vice-president of the Socialist Workers' Party of Romania Maria Lazar, vice-chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party and deputy speaker of the state Duma of the Federation Council of Russia A. D. Vengerovskiy and his entourage, a delegation of the Maritime Territorial Committee of the Communist Party [CP] of the Russian Federation headed by its first secretary V. V. Grishukov, first secretary of the Khabarovsk Territorial Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation L. A. Golub, a delegation of the Amur Regional Committee of the CP of the Russian Federation headed by its first secretary G. E. Gamza, a delegation of the Japan-Korea Friendship Data Center headed by Yoshiyuki Oe, chairman of the center and president of the S.B.B. Company, Ltd., of Japan, director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea Shuhachi Inoue, secretary general of the World Federation of Trade Unions Alexandr Jarikov, a delegation of the secretariat of the Society for the Study of the Chuche Idea of Japanese Teachers headed by Masagazu Yokobori, advisor and secretary general of the Japan Liaison Council of Societies for the Study of Kim Chong-il's Works, a delegation of the Kim Chong-suk Kindergarten in Dalandzadgad City, Omnogov Province, Mongolia, headed by its superintendent Altantuya, a delegation of the Karachi branch of the Pakistan-Korea Friendship Association headed by Abdul Razak Molai and chairman of the Mongolian Study Centre of the Chuche Idea Y. O. Maxim.

Present on the occasion were Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WPK Central Committee and officials concerned.

The guests presented a flower basket to President Kim Il-song in celebration of his birthday and wished him long life in good health.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and had a cordial and friendly talk with them.

Hosts Banquet for Visitors

SK1504103094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, arranged a grand banquet at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall today for the visiting high-level delegations of different countries and delegations of overseas Koreans.

When President Kim Il-song accompanied by heads of foreign high- level delegations appeared in the banquet hall amid the playing of the welcome music, the participants warmly welcomed him with loud applause.

Invited to the banquet were the delegations of the National Democratic Congress of Ghana, the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan and the Workers' Party of Ireland and other high-level delegations and personages from different countries.

O Chin u, member of the presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and minister of People's Armed Forces; Kang Song-san, Politburo member of the WPK Central Committee and premier of the Administration Council; Vice Presidents Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol and Kim Yong-chu, Politburo members of the WPK Central Committee; Vice President Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party; and other senior party and state officials were present at the banquet.

Also present were the congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan for celebrating April 15 led by Yi Chin-gyu, first vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean residents in Japan (Chongnyon), the delegation of old cadres of Chongnyon led by Paek Chong-won, chairman of the Sports Federation of Koreans in Japan, and other delegations of Chongnyon, Choe Hong- hui, president of the International Taekwon-do Federation, and congratulatory groups and overseas Koreans from different regions and organisations.

Premier Kang Song-san made a speech at the banquet.

Authorized by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, he warmly welcomed on behalf of the WPK Central Committee and the DPRK government the delegations of foreign parties, friendship envoys and congratulatory groups and overseas Koreans from different regions and organisations, who came to Korea to share joy with the Korean people on the occasion of the Korean people's auspicious holiday of April.

He said the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song has victoriously led the Korean revolution with outstanding and tested leadership and tireless devoted efforts for a long time since he embarked on the road of revolution and performed immortal exploits for the country and the revolution, the times and history.

"Thanks to Comrade Kim Il-song's outstanding and tested leadership, the Korean people are powerfully demonstrating the advantages of Korean-style socialism centred on the masses, effecting a constant upswing in socialist construction and valiantly advancing toward the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country without the slightest vacillation under the complex and difficult conditions created by the continued challenges and obstructions of the imperialists and reactionaries," said the premier.

"Our party and the DPRK Government," he stressed, "will invariably and consistently implement the foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship and actively contribute to peace and progress of mankind and the cause of global independence."

General secretary of the National Democratic Congress of Ghana Huudu Yahaya spoke next.

He said President Kim Il-song founded the immortal chuche idea and indicated the road ahead of the popular masses and that this idea is shining and encouraging all the progressive people of the world beyond the boundary of Korea.

"As regards the question of national reunification, the supreme desire of the Korean people," he said, "we support the confederation formula based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments put forward by President Kim Il-song."

Yi Chin-gyu, first vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of Chongnyon, in his speech said the greatest blessing in the world is to be guided by a great leader.

"The overseas Koreans will share the destiny with the people in the homeland to defend and exalt the dignified socialist motherland and make a tangible contribution to accomplishing the noble cause of reunification, closely united in one mind and purpose under the banner of the ten-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation," he stressed.

The banquet proceeded in a cordial atmosphere overflowing with friendly feelings.

Meets With Overseas Koreans

SK1504105094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—Overseas Koreans on a visit to the socialist homeland paid a congratulatory call on the great leader President Kim Il-song today.

The visitors included the congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan for celebrating April 15 led by Yi Chin-kyu, first vice- chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), the delegation of old cadres of Chongnyon led by Paek Chong-won, chairman of the Sports Federation of Koreans in Japan, and other delegations of Chongnyon, the congratulatory group of the International Federation of Koreans for Reunification for celebrating April 15 led by its vice-chairman Chu Yong-il, the congratulatory group of Koreans in China under the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) for celebrating April 15 led by Nam Su-nam, first vice- chairman of the Pomminnyon headquarters of Koreans in China, the congratulatory group of the Organisation of Korean Citizens in Russia for celebrating April 15 led by Chae Chong-man, and Choe Hong-hui, president of the International Taekwondo Federation, Yi Yong-pin, chairman of the Association of Korean Christians for National Reunification in Germany, and his party and Rev. Cho Tok- chon, director of the Korea Institute of William Carey University, the U.S.

Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Yong-sun and officials concerned were present.

The congratulatory groups, delegations and overseas Koreans presented floral baskets to President Kim Il-song on his birthday and wished him good health and a long life.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and had a talk with them in a cordial atmosphere overflowing with compatriotic feelings.

Receives PRENSA LATINA Head

SK1304121194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1124 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received Pedro Margolles Villanueva, director general of the PRENSA LATINA of Cuba, and his companion on a visit to Korea.

Present on the occasion were Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Director General of the Korean Central News Agency Kim Ki-yong and Cuban Ambassador E.P. to Korea Jose Ramon Rodriguez Varona.

The guests warmly congratulated President Kim Il-song on his birthday and wished him a long life in good health.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this, conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and answered questions put by the director general.

President Kim Il-song arranged a luncheon for them.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Queen of Denmark

SK1504101394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings today to Queen Margrethe II on the national day of the Kingdom of Denmark.

He wished the queen health and happiness and the Kingdom of Denmark prosperity.

Former Foreign State Leaders Visit Mangyongdae

SK1404050994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The Pyongyang-visiting group of former heads of state and government and politicians from different countries led by ex-President of Costa Rica Rodrigo Carazo Odio visited Mangyongdae Wednesday.

At the old home in Mangyongdae where the great leader President Kim Il-song was born and spent his childhood, the guests saw the relics with keen interest, hearing the immortal story about this historical home.

After going round the revolutionary sites on the Mangyong hill, former member of the parliament of France and member of the European Parliament Pierro Ceyrac said Mangyongdae is a very beautiful place. "The Korean people look up to, revere and follow President Kim Il- song because he has performed great feats for them, always finding himself among them," he noted.

At the construction site of the Nungna suspension bridge which is being built by Korean People's Army soldiers, former President of Costa Rica Rodrigo Carazo Odio congratulated the soldiers participating in construction for the welfare of the people. He expressed the belief that the Korean people would certainly achieve progress.

After inspecting the three-revolution exhibition, former Prime Minister of Egypt Aziz Sedky said Korea has built a wonderful independent national economy. He noted that Korea has attained self-sufficiency in nearly all things because its policy is correct.

"Agriculture has developed and the people are well off as good policies for the people are pursued in your country," he said, adding: "All the people are evenly off. This is important."

After making a round of the Mangyongade School Children's Palace, General of the Army Jeannou Lacaze, former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of France, member of the European Parliament and chairman of the union of independentists, said he had never seen such talented children. "I will remember till the end of my life everything I saw at the palace," he added.

President of the Summit Council for World Strategy of Japan Hirogatsu Ota said it is wonderful to bring up the children, regarding them as "kings" of the country.

The guests went round the May Day Stadium and Chongchun Street of the capital on the same day.

Foreign Visitors Arriving in Pyongyang Reported

SK1304061694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Secretary General of the World Federation of Trade Unions Aleksandr Jarikov arrived here Tuesday.

Arriving here on the same day were A.D. Vengerovsky, vice-chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party and deputy speaker of the state Duma of the Federation Council of Russia, and his entourage, L.A. Golub, first secretary of the Khabarovsk Territorial Committee of the Communist Party [CP] of the Russian Federation, a delegation of the Maritime Territorial Committee of the CP of the Russian Federation led by its first secretary V.V. Grishukov, a delegation of the Amur Regional Committee of the CP of the Russian Federation led by its first secretary G.E. Gamza, a delegation of the Secretariat of the Society for the Study of the Chuche Idea of Japanese Teachers led by Masagazu Yokobori, advisor and secretary general of the Japan Liaison Council of Societies for the Study of Kim Chong-il's works, a delegation of the Japan-Korea Friendship Data Center led by Yoshiyuki Oe, chairman of the Center and President of the S.B.B. Company, Ltd., of Japan and a delegation of the Karachi Branch of the Pakistan-Korea Friendship Association.

Party Held for Foreign Military Attaches

SK1504050894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—The Ministry of People's Armed Forces Thursday hosted a cocktail party for the military attaches of foreign embassies in Pyongyang on the occasion of the 15th of April.

It was attended by Vice Marshal Kim Kwang-chin, Col. Gen. Pak Chae-kyong, Lieut. Gen. Pak Song-won, other generals and officers of the Korean People's Army.

Speeches were made at the cocktail party.

Officials, Former Foreign Leaders Hold Talk

SK1404232694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1527 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—Officials of the Reunification Policy Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] had a roundtable talk with the visiting former heads of state and government and politicians of different countries here today.

Present there were Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Reunification Policy Committee of the SPA; Yi Chong-hyok, senior councillor of the Reunification Policy Committee of the SPA; and other officials concerned.

Also present were ex-president of Costa Rica Rodrigo Carazo Odio, former Governor-general of Canada Edward Schreyer, former Prime Minister of Egypt Aziz Sedky, former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of France, member of the European Parliament and Chairman of the Union of Independentists General of the Army Jeannou Lacaze, former member of the Parliament of France and member of the European Parliament Pierro Ceyrac, Senior Vice-president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies of the United States William Taylor, Senior Vice-president of the CNN International Eason Jordan, Executive Director of the Summit Council for World Peace Antonio Betancourt, Director of Research of the Summit Council for World Peace Mark P. Barry, former senior advisor to the assistant secretary of State for Human Rights of the United States James Zumwalt, managing editor of THE WASHINGTON TIMES Josette Shiner, Executive Director of WASHINGTON TIMES Photo Agency Victoria Yokota, President Hirooatsu Ota and Vice-president Togashi Takayoshi of the Summit Council for World Strategy of Japan and others.

They exchanged views on the situation of the Korean peninsula surrounding the nuclear issue, DPRK-U.S. relations, etc.

The Korean side said that to denuclearize the Korean peninsula was the consistent stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and it had made persistent efforts to this end. It also said that the nuclear issue was a matter to be resolved between the DPRK and the United States.

It held that the DPRK-U.S. talks must be continued and the DPRK's stand for solving the nuclear issue and improving the DPRK- U.S. relations through dialogue was invariable.

It said that as the efforts of one side were not enough to resolve the matters, the United States, too, must approach the dialogue with faith and sincerity.

It stressed that the progress of the DPRK-U.S. talks depended entirely on the United States.

Referring to the question of national reunification, the Korean side declared that invariable was the DPRK's stand for reunifying the country independently and peacefully on the basis of great national unity.

It said that witnessing the reality of Korea at first hand, the guests might judge impartially who truly wanted peace and reunification and who sought war, confrontation and division.

The Korean side declared that the DPRK would invigorate the struggle for national reunification on the basis of unity of the whole nation under the banner of "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Kim Yong-sun Meets With Visitors From Abroad

SK1304060594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the reunification policy committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, met and had a friendly talk with a Pyongyang-visiting group of former heads of state and government and politicians of different countries led by former Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio when they paid a courtesy call on him at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on April 12.

The head of the group said he deemed it a great honour to visit Korea on the occasion of the auspicious April holiday.

Korea's reunification should be solved peacefully in the interests of the Korean people, he said, and stressed that all the people on the globe should exert efforts for Korea's reunification.

Secretary Hwang Chang-yop Meets Foreign Visitors

SK1504050694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—Secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Hwang Chang-yop Thursday met and conversed in a friendly atmosphere with Vice-president of the socialist Workers' Party of Romania Maria Lazar.

On the same day, he met L. A. Golub, first secretary of the Khabarovsk territorial committee of the Communist Party [CP] of the Russian Federation, and a delegation of the Maritime Territorial Committee of the CP of the Russian Federation and a delegation of the Amur Regional Committee of the CP of the Russian Federation led by its First Secretary G. E. Gamzar, and conversed with them in a friendly atmosphere.

Vice-director of a department of the C.C., the WPK Chi Chae-yong was on hand.

Meets With Russian Guests

SK1504045594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—Secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Hwang Chang-yop Thursday met and conversed in a friendly atmosphere with A. D. Vengerovsky, vice-chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party and deputy speaker of the state Duma of the Federation Council of Russia, and his entourage.

Chi Chae-yong, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, was on hand.

Friendship Festival Draws 'Full Houses'

SK1404231694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival which began here on Saturday is drawing full houses at ten theatres in the city.

The performers in the festival express deepest respect, trust and reverence for the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and sincerely wish them a long life in good health.

The artistes from various countries put on stage songs, dances and instrumental music representing the resourcefulness, bravery and customs of their nations.

The Chinese artistes successfully present in bold rhythms dances thick in national flavor showing the traditional customs of their people. The female solo "May You Enjoy Happiness", "Smile of China" and other songs are acclaimed by the audience for the clear and delicate voice.

The Nigerian national art troupe performs "Dance of Fishermen" showing the labor of its people for the building of a new life and another dance "Fight of Lion and Tiger" representing the courage and resourcefulness of the people in the struggle for the defence of sovereignty. Those dances are rich in national flavor.

The artistes from Russia, Mongolia, Cambodia, Ukraine and other countries excellently perform in graceful, delicate and skillful rhythmic movements dances showing the beautiful customs and manners, bravery and optimistic life of their nations.

Juan Espinosa, an international contest prize winner from Cuba, successfully plays with refined technique the piano solo "Poprri", Roman Storzhenko, an international contest prize winner of the Moldova art troupe, well plays the cello solo "Skeltso" by Shostakovich and the Russian folklore song and dance troupe wonderfully performs the orchestral music "The Sound of the Bell in the Evening".

The foreign artistes delight the Korean people by singing Korean songs with rich voice and beautiful and unique tone color, fully representing the idea of the songs.

The Pakistani vocal soloist touches the heartstring of the audience by singing "Song to President Kim Il-song" both the words and music of which had been written by him.

The head of the Romanian art troupe, Alexandru Mica, a well-known male vocalist, excellently sings in Korean the Korean song "We Will Live With the Leader Forever".

A Syrian musician who won several gold medals at international song festivals puts on stage "World People Shout Hurrah" composed by himself. In the song he sings with strong emotion the great joy of the world progressive people in holding in high esteem the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as an illustrious leader of revolution.

The head of the Russian folklore song and dance troupe and all- union people's actress, Zykina Lyudmila Georgiyevna, sings the Korean song "Kimchongilia" and a soloist of the Mongolian art troupe the Korean song "We Will Win Because You Are Leading Us" with rich voice and refined artistry, deeply impressing the audience.

The artistes from China, Finland, Yugoslavia, Malaysia, Italy and other countries also sing Korean songs which they prepared for a long time, to delight the Korean people who are significantly greeting the April spring holiday.

Senior Officials at Film Showing

SK1504051194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—Senior party and government officials Thursday appreciated the 17th part of the multi-part feature film "The Nation and Destiny" which has been released on the occasion of the April fete.

Appreciating the film were Kang Song-san, Pak Song-chol, Kim Yong-chu and other senior party and government officials, Yi Chin- kyu, first vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) who is heading a congratulatory group of Korean residents from Japan participating in the April 15 celebrations, and members of congratulatory groups, delegations and visiting groups of Koreans overseas from various regions.

The 17th part of "The Nation and Destiny" which has been completed as another masterpiece under the energetic guidance of the party is based on the life of Ho Chong-suk who was intensely loyal to the party and the leader till her last moments.

Through the chequered destiny and mental development of the heroine who joined in the communist movement in the 1920s when she was still a girl, the film shows in a profound artistic depiction the truth that one can not fight a worthy struggle to save the destiny of the motherland and the nation when one is not guided by a sagacious leader.

Kim Ik-hyon Appointed KPA Vice Marshal

SK1504103194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—A decision of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], the Central Military Commission of the WPK, the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Central People's Committee of the DPRK on awarding the rank of vice marshal of the Korean People's Army to Comrade Kim Ik-hyon has been adopted.

The decision dated April 15 says that it has been decided to award the rank of vice marshal of the Korean People's Army to Comrade Kim Ik-hyon who fought devotedly with arms in his hands from the first days of the Korean revolution for the motherland and the people in the anti-Japanese revolutionary war to defeat the Japanese imperialists and in the great fatherland liberation war for routing the U.S. imperialist aggressors, holding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem as the centre of unity, and has devoted his whole life to strengthening the people's Armed Forces, defending Comrade Kim Il-song and the party with arms.

Anniversary of Kim Chong-il Article Marked

SK1404130994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 14 Apr 94

["It Is Life and Soul of Socialist Cause To Ensure Uniformity of Ideology and Leadership"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates a signed article to the 20th anniversary of the publication of "Let Us More Firmly Establish the Monolithic Ideological System in the Whole Party and the Whole Society", a famous work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il (April 14, 1974).

The article says it is the greatest feat of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il that he put forward the great idea and policy of establishing the monolithic ideological system in the whole party and the whole society and has successfully applied it and made the revolutionary ranks one socio-political organism in which the leader, the party and the masses are united closely.

It stresses that the party has raised it as a fundamental question decisive to the future and destiny of the cause of the party and socialism to ensure uniformity of ideology and leadership and brilliantly carried it into practice.

Comrade Kim Chong-il is quoted as saying:

"Our party raised anew the principles of establishing its monolithic ideological system to meet the requirements of the development of the revolution in the 1970s when the modelling of the whole society on the chuche idea was put to the fore and has further deepened this work."

The article goes on:

He published a famous work "Let Us More Firmly Establish the Monolithic Ideologikal System in the Whole Party and the Whole Society" on the basis of a scientific analysis of the practical requirements of the development of our revolution, and set forth the outstanding idea and theory of more firmly establishing the monolithic ideological system in the whole party and the whole society.

This idea and theory of our party comprehensively consummates the principled requirements for further deepening this work in keeping with the demand of a new higher stage of modelling the whole of society on the chuche idea, and revolutionary policies for its realisation. This idea and theory is an original one which was the first in history to systematize and perfectly standardize all the theoretical and practical matters arising in the establishment of the monolithic ideological system in an integral way on the basis of the revolutionary outlook on the leader, and a great one indicating the road of accomplishing the revolutionary cause of chuche.

The exposition of this great idea and theory which has brought about a revolutionary change in the building and activities of the Workers' Party of Korea and in the struggle for accomplishing the socialist cause is a noble expression of the unshakable will of Comrade Kim Chong-il to purely inherit and accomplish the revolutionary cause started by the respected leader President Kim Il-song.

The immortal exploits performed by the WPK in the work for establishing the monolithic ideological system in the whole party and the whole society lie in that it has built up a great army of revolutionaries of chuche type unfailingly loyal to the party and the leader and made the revolutionary ranks an integral whole in ideology and purpose in which the leader, the party and the people shaje the same destiny.

Another exploit of the WPK in the work for establishing its monolithic ideological system finds expression in that it has wrought great miracles in socialist construction by intensifying its leadership over the revolution and construction.

The article further says:

The imperialists and reactionaries are trying to stifle Korean- style socialism more frantically than before. But, we are resolutely fighting against the enemy without any vacillation because we have the firm singlehearted unity around the party and the leader, a powerful independent national economy and self-reliant national defence. This clearly proves the wise leadership and great exploits of the WPK which has successfully led the work for establishing the monolithic ideological system in the whole party and society.

Plant Workers in Pyongyang Assist Army Units

SK1304082494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Organizations and enterprises in the light industry and service sector in Pyongyang have carried out the work of assisting [wonho saop] People's Army units on the occasion of the festive day of April, the most glorious day of the nation. Functionaries and workers in these sectors—who have greatly glorified the traditional trait of Army-people unity by vigorously carrying out the slogan "Our post is our plant, and our plant is our post"—again visited People's Army units on 11 April with relief materials [wonho muicha] they sincerely prepared.

Functionaries and workers in light industrial plants, including the Pyongyang Textile Machine Plant, the Koksan Plant, the Shoe Plant, and the Children Knitting Plant, prepared various gifts [wimunpum] with their warm, caring hearts and they love the People's Army units as much as they love their real brothers and sisters.

Functionaries of the plants, who visited the People's Army units, have strengthened Army-people friendship [kunminui chong], while explaining to soldiers the successes that the working class brought about in implementing the party's light industry-first policy in response to the great leader's New Year address and the decision made at the 21st plenary session of the sixth party Central Committee.

Their assistance work [wonho saop] has further inspired revolutionary zeal and combatant courage among the soldiers who strongly prepare to become one-a-match-for-a-hundred revolutionary fighters.

Functionaries and workers in the commercial service organization—who have properly carried out the work of assisting People's Army units—also visited People's Army units that day with relief materials [wonhopum] they sincerely prepared. With their boundless loyalty to the party and the leader [suryong], their revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, and their devoted spirit of serving the people, functionaries in the service sector have resolved to further improve and strengthen the commercial service activity and to continue supporting soldiers, while soldiers have fully displayed their burning zeal to firmly retain the posts of the fatherland.

Article Dedicated to Kim Il-song's Philosophy

SK1304115594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The idea of "believing in the people as in heaven" of great innovative significance for the development of the Korean and the world revolution is the maxim and philosophy of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song who began his revolutionary activities with mixing with the people and has pushed through the rigorous storms of the revolution.

It is the greatest happiness and fortune of the Korean people to have Comrade Kim Il-song who regards the people as heaven and devotes everything to the noble cause for the people all his life.

This is stressed in an editorial article of MINJU CHOSON Tuesday.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is quoted as saying:

"'To believe in the people as in heaven' is my maxim and philosophy. Ever since I embarked on the road of revolution, I have served the masses of people, regarding them as heaven and made the revolution in reliance on their strength."

In the first part, the article says respected Comrade Kim Il-song is the people's leader who has made the noble idea of "believing in the people as in heaven" his maxim and philosophy.

This outstanding idea calls for regarding the people as the most valuable and greatest beings in the world, absolutely trusting them and relying on them at all times.

Proceeding from his unshakable viewpoint and position that the masses of people are responsible for the revolution and construction and in charge of them, the respected leader propounded the great idea that when one believes in the people as in heaven and relies on them, one gains everything and wins victory every time.

Go to the people when difficulties crop up in the way of revolution, when you are hungry, when you are thirsty and when you are sad. This is the unshakable creed of our respected leader. With this creed, he began his revolutionary struggle with mixing with the people, and has always found himself among the people, never neglecting his contact with them, and triumphantly fought his way through the protracted trials of revolution, sharing weal and woe with them.

His idea of "believing in the people as in heaven" is the basic idea running through the immortal chuche idea, the guiding idea of our party. This idea serves as an invariable guiding compass which provides the revolutionaries and communists with a scientific knowledge of the decisive role of the people, who transform the world and shape their own destiny, and enables them to resolve every problem in reliance on the inexhaustible strength of the people.

In the second part, the article says Comrade Kim Il-song is a great leader who has brilliantly embodied in our revolutionary practice the noble idea of "believing in the people as in heaven," his maxim and philosophy.

He has mapped up lines and policies reflecting the will and interests of the people and carried them into effect and established the most popular mode of politics—the work system and order for service to the people.

He expounded that the revolutionary struggle and constructive work are chiefly aimed at realising the desire and demand of the people for independence, and saw that the revolutionary lines and strategy and tactics were worked out always our own way on the basis of the people's desire and demand and every problem was solved with their own efforts.

He regards the will and demand of the people as absolute, respects them to the maximum and solves every problem to suit their tastes, saying that the revolution is for the people and what they say is good is always good. This fundamental idea runs through the course of his shaping lines and policies.

He formed chuche-type political organisations whose noble mission it is to serve the people and established within them a well-regulated work system and order of looking after the people's destiny in a responsible manner.

All the officials subordinate everything to the people and do anything in their interest as required by the party's slogan "We serve the people" and a unique mode of politics suited to the essential nature of Korean-style socialist society centred on the masses has been established throughout society. This is a patent proof of the sagacity of Comrade Kim Il-song's leadership.

In the third part, the article explains that the respected leader's noble idea of "believing in the people as in heaven" is a great idea which has been applied to our revolutionary practice and displayed a great vitality.

Our people have boldly broken the established concepts, common knowledge and all mysticism and established their new tradition and new model with unprecedented heroism and creativity and ushered in a new history of epoch-making changes in this land. The source of the strength of this great creation is the idea of "believing in the people as in heaven."

This noble idea of Comrade Kim Il-song is being unswervingly carried forward and brought into fuller play by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, an outstanding thinker and theoretician and a tested statesman.

The dear leader enjoys deep respect and trust from the Korean people and the world revolutionary people and has the highest authority among the state leaders in the world for his great traits of always leading the revolution and construction victoriously under the fast-changing situation, turning adversity into favorable conditions with a firm belief in the people and in reliance on them and for his imperishable exploits for the party and the revolution, the country and the people.

Unity Between Leader, People Described

SK1504052694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 15 Apr 94

["Korean Revolution With Leader and People in Perfect Harmony Will Be Ever-victorious"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today describes the unity of the leader and the people in harmonious whole as the greatest gain of the Korean revolution and the source of the invincible might of Korean-style socialism.

The paper in an editorial dedicated to the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song stresses that the whole history of the Korean revolution is proud annals which have seen the achievement of the perfect unity between the leader and the revolutionary soldiers, between the leader and the people and victorious advance of the revolution based on its might.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is quoted as saying:

"Since the dawn of our revolution, the Korean communists have been convinced that they could carve out the thorny revolutionary road only under the leadership of the great Comrade Kim Il-song, and have won victories, enduring all ordeals, and lived and fought with everlasting, single-hearted loyalty to him, entrusting their destinies entirely to him."

The editorial continues:

Since the beginning of his revolutionary activities, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has always believed in the people and found himself among them in leading the revolution, unreservedly displaying the qualities and traits of a great leader of the people.

The great leader believes in the people and the latter trust and follow him. The bonds between them are those of kinship between the father and his children; they are so unbreakable that they can withstand any storm and stress and accomplish anything. Thus, the Korean revolution began with the harmonious unity between the leader and the people and has traversed a brilliant course on the basis of its might.

The perfect unity between the leader and the people is a mighty strength in resolutely defending the cause of Korean-style socialism.

The might of perfect unity between the leader and the people is fully demonstrated in the Korean revolution because it is one living body of common destiny and an integral whole in ideology and purpose.

He has always sincerely trusted the revolutionary soldiers and people and regarded their destiny as his own, while the people have absolutely trusted him as the centre and top brain of their lives and resolutely defended him.

Still today he is leading the people along the road of socialism, unswervingly assuming responsibility for their destiny, and the people are entrusting their destiny to the party and the leader and fighting with the unshakable resolve to follow them forever.

Our people have staunchly fought, taking the immortal chuche idea as their unshakable faith and the only banner of unity since the great leader founded this revolutionary idea.

The unity of our people in ideology and purpose is growing stronger because the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is constantly developing the chuche idea to perfection.

The perfect unity between the leader and the people is mighty because it is being carried forward and consolidated through generations for the accomplishment of the cause of socialism.

The vigorous advance of the whole party, the entire people and the whole army closely united behind the dear leader shows that the harmonious unity between the leader and the people, which has been formed and consolidated through history, is being successfully carried forward with eternal vitality.

The source of the solidity of our perfect harmony is the great leader's idea of "believing in the people as in heaven." Our perfect harmony based on this great idea will never be broken.

The integral whole of the leader, the party and the people has been, is and will remain the lifeline of our socialism and the all- conquering banner.

We must make the advance of our revolution a history of the most tight bonds of kinship between the leader and the people, between the leader and the soldiers in the future, too.

Publication of Educational Books Reported

SK1404231794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1518 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The Kum Song Youth Publishing House has brought out many books conducive to the education of the youth and children.

Published some time ago was "The Budding Season", the 12th volume of a collection of literary works of young people containing more than 20 works among those sent in for the 13th "April 15 Mangyongdae Loyalty Prize Contest" which was held in celebration of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song. Included in the collection are poems, essays, short stories and fables among them the short story "He Was an Ordinary Young Man" depicting the strong will and selfless spirit of a young demobilized soldier who works with sincerity at the construction site of the Okchon waterway for the prosperity and development of the country and the true story "Red Shoulder Ensign" which deals with a veteran of the fatherland liberation war who instills the soul of the former generation into the mind of his son of new generation who is leaving for military service, handing over to him the ensign.

The newly published books include the medium-length story "Pomegranates", an interesting story about a woman village doctor who is implementing the party's line of preventive medicine, the science fiction "The Star Will Return" and Vols. 18, 19 and 20 of a collection of Korean folktales. The collection of folktales include stories about Kye Wol-hyang and other women who fought valiantly against Japanese invaders, and Yi Ok-pong, Sok Kae and other famous woman poets and musicians. There are also stories about the life of righteous-minded, upright and talented people.

A collection of short stories "Victory" is based on the fatherland liberation war.

Writers of the publishing house are energetically working on full- and medium-length novels of various themes. The full-length novel "The Hill of Life" by Kim Yong-hwan depicting an official who devotes his whole life silently to the development of stock breeding and the medium-length novels "A New Morning on the Planet" and "A Daughter of the Coal Field" which exhale strong odor of the motherland and the hometown will see the light before long.

Kim Chin-song is writing the full-length novel "We Ask History the Question" and Chang Song-hun the full-length novel "Flowing Stars" on the theme of national reunification.

South Korea

DPRK Envoy Threatens NPT Withdrawal 'Again'

SK1504010794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0041 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—North Korea has again threatened to pull out of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) should Washington continue pressuring Pyongyang over its nuclear development program.

North Korean Ambassador to Moscow Son Song-pil made the threat at a recent press meeting, saying the International Atomic Energy Agency's report on its "unsatisfactory" inspection of North Korea's facilities and the failed Pyongyang-Washington talks have heightened tension on the Korean peninsula, NAEWOE PRESS, Seoul's official North Korea watcher, reported Thursday in quoting Radio Moscow.

Washington has pressed for strong action and Pyongyang should now adopt countermeasures, Son was quoted as saying. North Korea "could carry out its decision to withdraw from the NPT last year."

Son reiterated that the nuclear dispute can be settled only through North Korean-U.S. dialogue, saying the American threat to use force poses a grave obstacle, NAEWOE reported.

DPRK To 'Accede' to Talks If U.S. Proposal

SK1404224194 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2209 GMT 14 Apr 94

[YONHAP from United Nations]

[Text] Kim Chong-su, deputy chief of the North Korean mission in the United Nations, stated on 14 April that if the United States proposes holding the third round of U.S.-North Korean high-level talks, North Korea will accede to [unghagettago] it.

Expressing the strong desire for the resumption of U.S.-North Korean high-level talks, Kim said that the United States should arrange the resumption of talks since the United States unilaterally [ilbangjoguro] canceled the third round of high-level talks.

He insisted that the additional nuclear inspection issue should be discussed at the third round of talks and that the South-North exchange of special envoys should not be linked to U.S.-North Korean talks because it is a national issue [minjokkanui munje].

DPRK 'Desperately Hopes' To Resume U.S. Talks

SK1504035894 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0308 GMT 15 April 94

[YONHAP from Washington]

[Text] North Korea hopes to resume dialogue with the United States, CNN TV reported today in a Pyongyang-datelined story.

In a live report via telephone from Pyongyang during "Larry King Live" program, Chinoy, a Beijing-based CNN TV correspondent who is now in Pyongyang, said that North Korea desperately hopes [kalmanghada] to have high-level talks with the United States and that President Kim Il-song seeks a U.S. figure who would listen to his views regarding the nuclear issue.

Evangelist Billy Graham, who appeared in the program, said that he had a three-hour-long talk with President Kim during his recent visit to Pyongyang and, on this basis, expressed an upbeat view on the smooth solution of the nuclear problem. He confirmed that he had delivered President Kim's reply to the White House. However, he declined to give the specific contents of the reply.

Seoul Withdraws Demand on Exchange of Envoys

SK1504015994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government announced Friday it has decided to withdraw unconditionally its demand on an inter-Korean envoy exchange as a condition for Pyongyang to hold further high-level talks with Washington.

The decision represents a major concession by South Korea and the United States and will likely raise the pressure on North Korea to allow additional checks of its nuclear facilities.

The government also said it will accept all North Korean escapees from Pyongyang-run logging camps in Siberia wishing to settle here.

The deputy prime minister and head of the National Unification Board (NUB), Yi Yong-tok, made the announcement following a meeting of cabinet ministers concerned with reunification and national security policy.

"The government has determined that it was practically impossible to resolve the nuclear issue through an exchange of special envoys," since North Korea has clearly shown that it has no intention of doing so, he said. Consequently, the government has decided against pushing the envoy exchange as a condition for a third round of U.S.- North Korea high-level talks any longer, Yi explained.

"However, there is no change in the government's position that the nuclear problem will have to be resolved above everything else," he said. "Inter-Korean dialogue must go on for mutual and simultaneous inspections of each other's nuclear facilities based on the joint declaration for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula," Yi said.

The deputy prime minister added that IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] checks of North Korea's nuclear sites will also have to be realized soon. With regard to North Korean loggers, Yi said the government, based on humanitarian grounds, has decided to accept all escapees seeking asylum in the South after following the proper legal procedures.

Seoul has received a promise from the Russian Government on the matter, he said, adding that concerned South Korean ministries would take early steps to accept them.

Based on the decision, the government is expected to discuss a third round of U.S.-North Korean talks and other problems related to the nuclear issue when Robert Gallucci, U.S. assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs, arrives in Seoul Friday.

"The United States' talks with Pyongyang are linked with inter- Korean dialogue," Yi said. Therefore, any decisions on U.S.-North Korean negotiations will be made in close consultation between Washington and Seoul, Yi said.

The deputy prime minister, however, hinted that inter-Korean dialogue besides the special envoy exchange would not be a condition for the third round of U.S.-North Korean talks.

Meanwhile, the government is expected to hold a working-level meeting of Foreign Ministry, Chongwadae [presidential office] and National Unification Board officials Friday afternoon to discuss ways to accommodate North Korean loggers seeking asylum in the South.

PRC, Japan, Russia Welcome Exchange Decision

SK1504053494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0527 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—China, Japan and Russia welcomed South Korea's flexibility when consulted beforehand about Seoul's decision to withdraw its demand for an inter-Korean envoy exchange, a Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

The decision, while aimed at turning the North Korean nuclear crisis away from international sanctions, would at the same time convince the world community including China that sanctions were inevitable if Pyongyang ignored even this incentive, the official said.

Seoul has attempted to break the nuclear impasse by saying it would no longer demand an inter-Korean envoy exchange as a precondition to North Korean-U.S. high-level talks.

The decision separates inter-Korean from North Korean-U.S. dialogue under Seoul's strategy to resolve the nuclear problem, leaving the issue to Pyongyang and Washington to untangle.

The North's recent behavior, such as threatening to turn Seoul into a "sea of fire," proved the South could not expect any progress in the nuclear dispute via an envoy exchange, the ministry official said.

"The decision to cut the link reflects the government's will to place prior emphasis on transparent inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," he said.

Washington was fully consulted about Seoul's move, he said, while China, Japan and Russia welcomed it, noted the official.

"If North Korea blocks progress on the inspection despite such efforts on our part, the international community will gain justification in seeking sanctions against it," he said.

Decision To Drop Demand on Envoy Swap Analyzed

SK1504082194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0738 GMT 15 Apr 94

["Korea, U.S. Begin Whole New Ball Game With North Korea—by Yi Tong-min"]

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—Seoul and Washington began a whole new ball game against North Korea Friday with changed star players and match strategy.

South Korea announced it will no longer demand an envoy exchange with North Korea as a precondition to the next Pyongyang-Washington high-level talks. In effect, Seoul has cut itself out and left North Korea and the United States to deal with the nuclear problem.

Reactions are split on whether Seoul made the right call. Some say it is a correction of what was a wrong-headed policy. Others say Seoul threw in the towel when there was no need to.

Critics point out that inter-Korean dialogue was not the real stumbling block to resolving the nuclear impasse. There is no guarantee that North Korea will open its nuclear program to outside inspection just because Seoul withdrew the dialogue demand, they insist.

Furthermore, the Kim Yong-sam administration has lost face by rescinding the principle held for years by his predecessors that for North Korea, "the road to Washington goes through Seoul." What Seoul risks with Friday's decision is that much greater.

The critics have a point when they say Pyongyang succeeded in cornering Seoul to get what it always wanted—dialogue with, and only with, the United States that takes South Korea completely out of the picture.

But Seoul was more concerned with steering the nuclear problem away from a tense situation at the United Nations. Officials here explained they no longer felt an envoy exchange would help defuse the controversy and decided to let it go.

"Envoys were a means to a solution, not the final objective," said Kim Sam-hun, ambassador in charge of North Korean nuclear affairs.

Defenders of the new strategy say this was the only available incentive Seoul could give to North Korea to break the stalemate.

China, North Korea's staunchest ally, made clear to President Kim Yong-sam at last month's summit that it would exercise its veto power, not even abstain, if a resolution on imposing sanctions against Pyongyang came up at the security council.

In the face of such blatant opposition from a country whose support is the pillar of coordinated international action, Seoul had no choice but to yield in order to prove that it had done all it could to solve the problem diplomatically.

The government's tone has softened considerably compared to just last month when it kept talking about UN sanctions and hard-line action. High-level officials were declaring that Washington had to "show Pyongyang at least something" to make it comply with nuclear inspection demands.

"We can't say 'do this, do that.' We have to offer some incentives," said Kim, suggesting that Seoul and Washington were ready to make conciliatory gestures.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is considering an early-May deadline for North Korea to permit additional inspections. Friday's announcement will significantly quicken the pace to meet that deadline.

The IAEA's first move is to propose negotiations to North Korea on discussing checks of facilities where access was denied during last month's visit.

Meanwhile, the United States will reopen contact with North Korea to discuss holding the next round of high-level talks.

Once the inspections and high-level talks are agreed, Seoul will propose a new form of inter-Korean dialogue. The type of dialogue will depend on the progress of nuclear negotiations.

Officials say the prime ministers' talks, suspended because of the nuclear row, or the inter-Korean joint nuclear control commission are favorable channels.

North Korean-U.S. high-level talks are also expected to gain speed. There are specific sites the IAEA wants to see—those closed off to inspectors at last month's visit and the two nuclear storage sites. The IAEA also has to be present when North Korea changes the nuclear rods at its five-megawatt reactor.

In return for the above, Washington will take various steps toward improving relations.

It will take some time before the two sides can agree on diplomatic normalization. Washington is reminding Pyongyang of other stumbling blocks such as human rights, return of the remains of missing American soldiers from the 1950-53 Korean war and terrorism.

In any event, various stages lie in between—a liaison office for one, a formula that Washington applied with China.

DPRK Bans Loggers in Siberia From Leaving Camp

SK1504052994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0522 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—North Korea has prohibited its loggers working in Siberia from leaving or sleeping outside their camps, a Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

"North Korea permitted the loggers to go out and sleep on some special days in the past such as April 15, the birthday of President Kim Il-song, and Aug. 15, independence day from Japanese colonial rule, on a large scale. But this year the Pyongyang government banned it completely on April 15," the official said on condition he not be named.

North Korea seems to think that if Seoul admits defecting loggers to South Korea, more loggers will desert their camps. North Korean guards at the camps have thus increased surveillance of workers and banned movement to outside areas, the official said.

He expressed concern that North Korean loggers left camp in the past to buy daily necessities and food in Khabarovsk, but now they cannot do so.

DPRK 'Reinforced' PRC, Russia Border Guards

SK1504115894 Seoul YONHAP in English 1135 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—Amid reports of a stream of North Korean people escaping from their communist country or from their logging yards in Siberia, North Korea has sharply reinforced border guards in areas bordering China and Russia, it was learned here on Friday.

"The brigade-strength North Korean border troops have recently been reinforced to the strength of a corps consisting of 30,000 to 40,000 men," Vice Unification Minister Song Yong-tae said.

Speaking at a panel talks at the National Assembly, Song said in the past loggers at North Korea-run logging yards in Siberia used to be granted special outings on Kim Il-song's birthday, April 15, the biggest public holiday of North Korea.

"We have a report indicating that this year no outings were allowed at all for their loggers in Siberia," Song said.

He said there had been no particular signs of armed provocation on the part of North Korea.

But, people there have lately been whipped into producing more military supplies in addition to daily necessities, and Kim Il- song's birthday is being observed in low-key celebrations this year, Song said.

DLP To Study Ways To Help DPRK Loggers

SK1504083894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0519 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) has decided to study various ways to help resettle North Koreans fleeing from Siberian logging camps, Rep. Paek Nam-chi, the party's policy coordinator, said Friday.

The party plans to meet with the government to discuss creating a special public fund, considering the enormous cost of providing the North Koreans with vocational training and housing.

Some 170 escapees, out of an estimated 25,000 loggers at Pyongyang-run camps in Siberia whose human rights are allegedly violated on a routine basis, are said to be seeking asylum in the South.

Seoul pledged on Wednesday to help them resettle either in the South or in a third country in accordance with international law.

Paek said, "helping the North Koreans resettle here is better for them than only giving them financial support. And as it is difficult for the government alone to deal with their resettlement, the government needs to induce businesses or other private organizations to provide support."

The most important thing, he added, is to avoid a split in national opinion on supporting the North Korean loggers from a humanitarian point of view.

"As both the ruling and opposition parties empathize with each other on the issue, we are willing to study jointly with the opposition party some National Assembly measures if necessary."

Paek said that the government needs to work out policies on a long-term basis to handle those who have escaped or will escape from North Korea.

"We will collect detailed data about the West German policy toward East Germans who escaped from East Germany and study devising legal and institutional measures," he said.

ROK-PRC Firm Plans ROK-DPRK Sea Route

SK1504015294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0141 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—A regular, direct sea route between South and North Korea will open on April 18, business sources said Friday.

Sunho shipping company, a joint venture between South Korea's Samsun Shipping Corp. and China's Xianhu business group, has chartered a 4,200-ton containership from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and will send it from Pusan to the North Korean port of Chongjin on Monday.

The ship will carry 1,400 tons of construction equipment, which is to be transported again by truck from Chongjin to China.

The Pusan-Chongjin-Yanji route will shorten the time needed to transport goods to seven days, compared to the previous 40-45 days on the Pusan-Dalian-Yanji route.

Sunho plans to operate ships on the route once a month on a regular basis, Samsun officials said.

The inter-Korean sea route became available after the Xianhu group contracted with the North Korean Government to jointly develop Chongjin port last June. Under the contract, the Chinese group has the right to use the port for 50 years.

Samsun opened a sea route from Inchon through a Chinese port to the North Korean port of Nampo early last year and is operating freighters on the route twice a month.

A Samsun official said, "if inter-Korean relations improve, goods transported through this direct inter-Korean sea route will also increase."

Samsun carried 5,000 tons of rice from Mokpo to the North Korean port of Najin in July 1991—a first for a Korean shipping company.

Secretary Perry's Visit to Seoul 'Delayed'

SK1504001694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0010 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Washington, April 15 (YONHAP)—Secretary of Defense William Perry has delayed his April 17-19 visit to Seoul, citing the shooting down Thursday of two U.S. helicopters in northern Iraq by American fighters, diplomatic sources here said.

Perry, who was scheduled to leave for Tokyo and Seoul Friday to discuss the North Korean nuclear crisis, decided to postpone his trip because of the tragedy in which American F-15 fighters enforcing the "no-fly" zone over northern Iraq mistakenly shot down two U.S. Army choppers, killing more than 20 people, the sources said.

The Department of Defense notified the South Korean Embassy here of the delay, saying Perry's visit to Seoul will be rescheduled next week when the downing is cleared up, they said. The diplomatic sources, however, did not rule out the possibility that the visit could be delayed for a longer period if the mishap triggered a political and military uproar in and outside the United States.

The U.S. defense secretary was scheduled to meet with his South Korean counterpart Yi Pyong-tae to tackle the North Korean nuclear problem in Seoul from April 17-19.

U.S. Group's Unfair Trade Practice Study Cited

SK1504011994 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Apr 94 p 9

[Text] The United States has erected many non-tariff barriers on its imports although it has put pressure on foreign nations to rectify their unfair practices, the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation (KOTRA) said, quoting a report of a U.S. civilian body.

In a report on U.S. unfair trade practices, the Citizens for a Sound Economy Foundation said that there are many unfair practices in the United States and certain barriers are higher than those in foreign countries.

The report pointed out that the United States has set up complicated guidelines on automobile fuel efficiency which have become non-tariff import barriers on European deluxe cars.

The body claimed that the United States has limited imports of dairy products to 2 percent of total U.S. production and tariffs are high at 10-20 percent although it puts pressure on foreign countries to open their farm markets.

It also pinpointed non-tariff barriers in services, claiming that foreigners are strictly banned from engaging in TV and radio broadcasting business in the United States although U.S. operators have pressurized foreign governments to open their markets.

In the public construction works, foreigners are obligated to use U.S. made construction equipment and material under the Buy American Act.

The body pointed out that the Bill Clinton administration plans to increase subsidies to industries and agriculture despite Uruguay Round accord on reduction of subsidies.

PRC Friendship Pact Report Officially Denied

SK1504060894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0600 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea on Friday officially denied press reports that it has consulted with China on signing a bilateral friendship treaty. Responding to press reports that Seoul offered to sign the pact at ongoing policy planning talks in Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said, "the proposal was made just as an idea and it cannot be considered that we had any talks or consultations with Beijing on the matter."

The press had reported that Seoul proposed signing the treaty at the Beijing talks which opened Wednesday and that China responded positively to the offer.

Resolution of PRC History Book Issue 'Unlikely'

SK1504084294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0549 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—Wu Xueqian, vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, hinted at the possibility of revising the Chinese school textbooks that claim South Korea attacked the North to trigger the Korean war (1950-53) during his recent visit, but education authorities see little coming of it.

Since ties were normalized in August 1992, South Korean and Chinese textbook editors have discussed correcting inaccurate accounts of the other's country in school textbooks at several seminars, but failed to reach any agreement, Education Ministry officials said Friday.

One Chinese textbook reads: "A war erupted in Choson (Korea). American imperialists invaded the North."

Seoul wants it stated clearly that a Southward invasion took place, but Beijing is unwilling because it would mean China supported the invader.

The Chinese communists apparently wanted to assert they helped the North Koreans because a northward push by the Americans could have threatened their country, justifying their involvement in the war.

For Beijing's part, it wants Seoul to indicate that Manchuria belongs to its northeastern region and Taiwan is one of its provinces.

These disagreements make it unlikely that China will correct its textbooks anytime in the near future, officials here said.

The ministry, nonetheless, will continue to invite Chinese textbook editors to seminars and hold more discussions.

Report on Conclusion of UR Talks in Morocco

SK1504085394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0836 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Marrakesh, Morocco, April 15 (YONHAP)—The Trade Negotiation Committee (TNC) ministerial meeting closed on Friday, officially winding up the tough Uruguay Round (UR) talks.

Trade ministers from 125 countries adopted the Marrakesh declaration, signaling the end of the UR negotiations, and four ministerial decisions before they signed the final act wrapping up the seven-and-a-half-year UR process.

South Korean Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su signed the final act and the government procurement agreement but did not initial the accord on establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), an annex to the final act.

The government plans to sign the accord after the National Assembly ratifies the UR agreement.

Under the final act, participating countries promise to accept the results of the UR negotiations and adopt domestic legal procedures to launch the WTO system as soon as possible.

With the signing, legal conditions were satisfied for inauguration of the WTO, which will replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) system that has regulated global trade since World War II.

The Marrakesh declaration established a preparatory committee for the WTO and devised the necessary measures to effectuate the WTO accord on Jan. 1, 1995, or the earliest possible date next year.

The four ministerial decisions cover trade and the environment, establishment of the preparatory comittee for the WTO, acceptance of and accession to the agreement establishing the WTO, and the organizational and financial consequences of implementing the agreement establishing the WTO.

The decision on trade and the environment regulates the establishment of the trade and environment committee in order to study the two areas' linkage at the WTO's first council meeting.

That on the creation of the preparatory committee concerns the effort to carry out a smooth change from the GATT to the WTO system.

GATT Secretary-general Peter Sutherland was appointed chairman of the preparatory committee in a private capacity.

The decision on the acceptance of and accession to the agreement regulates procedures in dealing with original members of the WTO and those countries which do not participate in the WTO or which have not confirmed country schedules in the goods and service fields.

That on the organizational and financial consequences flowing from implementation of the agreement establishing the WTO regulates donations for the WTO budget and the working terms of WTO staff.

Meanwhile, Minister Kim said South Korea should concentrate on using the WTO system effectively in the future.

"The UR negotiations confirmed free trade and multilateralism, and will serve as the most important momentum in world trade history," Kim said after signing the final act.

Iraq Embassy Cites Economic Reasons in Closing

SK1504021394 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Apr 94 p 1 and 5

[Text] Iraq has recently notified South Korea that it will temporarily close down its embassy in Seoul, citing poor economic conditions in the country caused by a longstanding U.N. trade embargo.

In the notification delivered to the Foreign Ministry April 6, Baghdad hoped that despite the measure, "the friendly relations" between the two countries would be strengthened, said a ministry official.

He said the Iraqi government also promised to reopen its embassy here as soon as its economic conditions improve.

The Iraqi Embassy housed in a two-story building in Tongbinggo- tong, central Seoul, will be actually shut down late next month, said the official.

South Korea and Iraq established formal diplomatic ties in July 1989, upgrading the consulate-general in each others capital to an embassy.

The Seoul government, however, withdrew embassy staff, including the ambassador, from Baghdad in January 1991 when tensions were mounting in the Gulf region after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait the previous year.

South Korean diplomats so far have not returned to Baghdad.

The ministry official said a South Korean diplomat who is working as acting ambassador to Iraq is now stationed in the Jordanian capital of Amman.

Since setting up diplomatic ties in 1989, Iraq has not assigned an ambassador to Seoul and has been represented by a charge d'affaires.

While Iraq cited its economic predicament as the reason for its decision to close down the embassy in Seoul, some diplomatic observers here suspect the decision may reflect Iraq's dissatisfaction with Seoul for not reopening its embassy in Baghdad.

When reached by phone, Taha H. Mohammed, Iraqi charge d'affaires, rebuffed the speculation.

He emphasized the decision was from a purely economic motivation.

"We'll be ready to come back and open our embassy again (when the Iraqi economy gets better)," he said.

"We have found Korean people and companies cooperative with Iraq and I hope good relationship will still be maintained between the two countries," he added. (KKH)

Defense Ministry Plans Officers Reshuffle

SK1504025894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0204 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry will announce over the weekend a reshuffle of Army and Air Force officers affecting eight to 10 Army two- and three-star officers, informed sources said Friday.

The first military personnel changes by Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae, the Army reshuffle will likely involve the discharge of three- and four-star generals who were members of the defunct Hana- hoe, a private politically motivated club of some Korean military academy-graduated officers once led by Former Presidents Chon Tu- hwan and No Tae-u.

Of the one- and two-star Hana-hoe members, some major generals will be discharged from active service and the remaining major and brigadier generals will be dismissed from important staff and division command posts.

The scope of the Army reshuffle will depend on whether Gen. Kim Chae-chang, deputy commander of the combined ROK-U.S. Forces Command, is discharged for his links with Hana-hoe, the sources said.

Poll: Citizens Support Recent Political Reforms

SK1504085094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0646 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—Eight of every 10 South Koreans back the political reforms effected recently through parliamentary revision of election laws and favor a generational shift in politics.

They also expect the reforms will lead to clean politics, while advocating increased supervisory powers for the Central Election Management Committee, according to a telephone poll of 800 citizens and 200 specialists (100 politicians and 100 election management committee members) across the country conducted by Korea Research between April 11-14 under YONHAP News Agency's sponsorship.

Asked if the reforms would lead to a generational shift in politics by helping young, honest people enter the political arena, 84.5 percent of the citizen-respondents gave a positive reply and only 12.3 percent responded negatively.

Of the specialist-respondents, 85.2 percent were positive and 14.4 percent negative.

Asked if the revised election laws would help realize clean politics, 82 percent of the citizen-respondents (96.6 percent for specialists) said "yes" and 15 percent (3.5 percent) "no."

Concerning President Kim Yong-sam's handling of state affairs, 13.6 percent of the citizens said "very good," 54.8 percent "somewhat good," 26 percent "somewhat bad," and 3.1 percent "very bad."

In the specialist group, 21.8 percent checked "very good," 51 percent "somewhat good," 18.3 percent "somewhat bad," and 6.9 percent "very bad."

As for political party preference, the Democratic Liberal Party led with a 26.3-percent support rate, followed by the Democratic Party at 22.9 percent, the New Political Reform Party at 9.6 percent, the United People's Party at 2.5 percent and the New Korea Party at 1.9 percent.

Noteworthy is that 27.6 percent of the respondents favored none of the five parties.

Asked if the new election laws would clean up the four local polls slated for next year, 59.6 percent of the citizens questioned (85.6 percent for specialists) gave a positive reply and 36.9 percent (13.4 percent) a negative answer.

With regard to who played the leading role in effecting the political reforms, 40.4 percent (42.1 percent) pointed to President Kim Yong-sam, 22.3 percent (17.3 percent) the ruling party and 15.5 percent (23.3 percent) the opposition party.

The new election laws were generally well accepted, as 54.9 percent (54 percent) said the opposition party would benefit more than the ruling party.

But the 50 million won-ceiling on election funds for every candidate provided for by the new legislation drew a negative reaction from the citizen-respondents: 57.2 percent said the ceiling would not be obeyed, while 39.4 percent replied it would be respected by candidates.

Some 69.8 percent of the specialist-respondents gave a positive reaction and 29.7 percent a negative one.

As to gifts from candidates, 81.5 percent of the citizen-respondents said they would reject them, while only 15.4 percent would accept them.

And 80.2 percent said that if they see a candidate violate the election laws, they would take action.

Asked who should play the most important role in establishing the new electoral system, 53.5 percent (50.5 percent for specialists) cited voters, 17.9 percent (15.8 percent) the government, 12.4 percent (24.8 percent) candidates and 7.1 percent (3 percent) election management committees.

Asked if the new political fund donation system would help the opposition party, 73.8 percent of the specialist-respondents gave a positive reply and 25.3 percent a negative answer.

Statistical Office Plans To Release Statistics

SK1504023594 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Apr 94 p 8

[Text] Various statistical information, which had been under exclusive control of the government, will now be released to the public through the National Statistical Office (NSO).

On the supply list will be 440,000 statistics regarding about 500 areas, including income, health, industry, labor, money, foreign exchange rates, inflation, economic growth and international statistics, NSO officials said yesterday.

The only exceptions from the free release will be such statistical figures that may infringe on individuals' privacy or private businesses' trade secrets, they said.

To gain access to the official statistics, one has to have a personal computer and subscribe to related computer network systems run by private information suppliers, the officials said.

For instance, Korea Securities Computer Corp. has already been providing stock market information through its Stocknet network from March and Dacom plans to supply a statistical service through its Chollian network from June.

Other than the computer network services, the statistics can be sold in the form of diskettes and magnetic tapes at the request of individuals and corporations with certain fees for using computers.

The NSO will also operate an ARS (audio response system) in the fourth quarter of this year, by which time it will provide ready answers on 1,000 basic statistics with only one phone call.

Cambodia

Mahathir's Official Visit Continues

Meets Ranariddh, Hun Sen

BK1404121594 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1034 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By Abdul Rahman Sulaiman]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 14 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Dr. Mahathir Mohamed Thursday met with Cambodia's Co-Prime Ministers Prince Norodom Ranaridh and Hun Sen for discussions to further enhance the growth of ties between the two countries.

The prime minister was accompanied by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Primary Industries Minister Dr. Lim Keng Yaik and other officials to the talks held at the Cambodian prime ministers' office.

Cambodia, which is undergoing economic rehabilitation and reconstruction following the restoration of peace and stability, is said to be keen to emulate Malaysia's economic success as well as that of its other ASEAN neighbours.

Dr. Mahathir, here for a two-day official visit at the invitation of the Cambodian Government, arrived Thursday morning together with a 23-member official delegation.

Also with him was his wife Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and 69 Malaysian businessmen.

The business delegation, led by Arab Malaysia Merchant Bank Berhad [Limited] executive chairman Azman Hashim, is here to further explore business and investment opportunities in this former socialist state whose potentials are still largely untapped.

Despite Thursday being the Cambodian new year and public holiday here, the prime minister and his entourage were given a rousing welcome on arrival at the Pochentong International Airport, near here.

Dr. Mahathir and Dr. Siti Hasmah were received by First Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh and his wife.

Later, the prime minister had an audience with King Norodom Sihanouk who had just returned home from medical treatment abroad specially to welcome the Malaysian leader.

Ranariddh, Hun Sen Host Banquet

BK1404144494 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir considers his visit to Cambodia a historical event because he is the first Malaysian leader to visit the country in 30 years. This is because the conflict that took place in Cambodia following the visit by the late Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first prime minister, made it impossible for other Malaysian leaders to visit Phnom Penh. Here is Shah Bahrom Datuk Shah Ya, a RTM [Radio Television Malaysia] correspondent reporting from Vientiane. [as heard]

[Begin Shah Bahrom recording] Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir said the above when addressing the state banquet hosted in his honor by the co-prime ministers of Cambodia, Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen, at the Government House tonight.

He said that even though visits to Phnom Penh were impossible then, the leaders and the people of Malaysia continued to pay attention to Cambodia. Malaysia sympathized with the situation in Cambodia when it was bogged down by civil war. Now Malaysia is happy to see the country being restored to an everlasting peace with the help of friendly countries. Malaysia is also happy to be involved in the peace process in Cambodia, including participation in UNTAC [United National Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. As for Malaysia, it is important that peace is restored to Cambodia because this is also important for the stability and prosperity in the Southeast Asia region.

Malaysia's involvement in Cambodia's peace process is mainly due to the fact that Malaysia is a neighboring country and a close friend of Cambodia. It has become ASEAN's new practice to open up opportunities and boost cooperation among its member countries as well as with peaceful countries in Southeast Asia. This includes a peaceful Cambodia.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir reiterated that when there is unity in Southeast Asia, the countries in the region will definitely be much stronger to face future challenges.

Malaysia hopes that finally all 10 countries in Southeast Asia will become members of ASEAN. Laos and Vietnam have taken various steps and make preparations to join ASEAN. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Malaysian Business Investment Urged

BK1504102094 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has urged Malaysian businessmen to seriously consider investing in Cambodia. The prime minister said they should particularly go into the tourism sector, such as hotel and resort projects as well as road construction, power generation, telecommunications, and resource exploitation. He was speaking at a news conference in Phnom Penh during a two-day official visit to Cambodia, accompanied by a 69-member delegation.

Yesterday, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir held talks with First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen. He described the outcome of his visit as very significant. His visit is the first by a

Malaysian prime minister in 30 years. The prime minister had agreed to meet Cambodia's request for assistance in the fields of training and technical expertise in oil palm and rubber cultivation.

Ministry Condemns Attack on Ethnic Vietnamese

BK1504061694 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0358 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Phnom Penh 15 Apr (AKP)—"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has learned with concern and indignation that acts of violence were committed in the evening of 9 April against ethnic Vietnamese living in Peam So, S'ang District, Kandal Province," declared the Ministry in a communique issued in Phnom Penh on 12 April.

"This attack left a dozen killed and some 20 others wounded," stated the communique before adding:

"The Royal Government severely and solemnly condemns these barbarous acts, which are subject to a careful and urgent investigation of the competent authorities. The investigation will consider the objectives of the criminals, one of which aims at weakening the friendly relations between Cambodia and Vietnam.

"The Royal Government would like to express to the bereaved families its sincere condolences and all its sympathy on the occasion of this painful ordeal.

"It forcefully affirms that its sacred duty is to ensure security for all residents of the country, whatever their nationality," concluded the communique.

Press Reports on Fighting in Pailin Continue

Ranariddh: Fall of Pailin Untrue

BK1504092194 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 15 Apr 94 pp 1, 16

[Text] Cambodian First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, commenting on the failure of the suppression of the Khmer Rouge, said his patience in dealing with Thailand was wearing thin. He noted that the report carried by the Thai newspapers on the recapture of Pailin town by the Khmer Rouge was untrue, adding that such a report was an indication of Thailand's backing for the Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Earlier Prince Ranariddh said, in a rather aggressive tone, that the three tanks used by the Khmer Rouge during an ambush against the Phnom Penh troops came from Thai soil and claimed that two of them were destroyed by the Phnom Penh government troops.

As of the time of this report, there has not been any reaction from the Thai Government leaders because the Thais are celebrating their traditional new year, Songkran, from 12-14 April. However, Thai officials including the foreign minister clearly announced that Thailand had noting to do with nor did it provide any support for the Khmer Rouge. They asserted that Thailand wants to see genuine peace restored in Cambodia because peace in Cambodia will also mean safety for the Thai people along the border with that country. Stray artillery shells from the fighting in Cambodia frequently landed on Thai soil, forcing border villagers to run to safe places.

Prince Ranariddh has reportedly been implementing an aggressive foreign policy toward Thailand. Recently, he accused Thailand of helping Pol Pot flee Pailin into Thailand as the Phnom Penh troops were launching offensives against the town. Several foreign news agencies reported his accusation against Thailand worldwide. After the Thai Government openly voiced its discontent over Prince Norodom Ranariddh's groundless accusation, the prince simply denied his own statement on Pol Pot seeking refuge in Thailand, saying what he meant was that the Khmer Rouge or Pol Potists were the ones who fled to Thailand.

An analyst who has long observed the Cambodian situation noted that Prince Norodom Ranariddh has been making attempts to reduce Thailand's influence over his country, especially in the economic field. The Thai baht currency is widely accepted and influential in Cambodia. The Cambodians prefer baht to Cambodia's reil currency because the latter's value is nothing more than plain paper. Moreover, the listing of the baht currency as one of the world's 20 strongest currencies by international monetary institutions has further fanning up the anti-Thai sentiments in Cambodia.

The analyst also warned that Cambodia will try to project more accusations against Thailand onto the international arena in a bid to use the hands of the world community to push Thailand out of its economic circles. He noted that some countries might be waiting for an opportunity to replace Thailand in Cambodia's economy.

Battlefield Report: 12-13 Apr

BK1504013394 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Here is an additional report from the Pailin battlefield on 12 and 13 April.

1. The areas in and around Pailin:

On 12 April, we attacked and seized control of the general command post of the communist Vietnamese puppets and two-headed government at Boeng Pralit. Its commander fled back to Pailin. At 1400 on 12 April, we seized five enemy soldiers and two T-54 tanks.

On the morning of 12 April, we fired at enemy trucks, damaging two of them and setting two others on fire in the southern part of Phnum Veng north of Route 10.

Also on 12 April, we set an oil tanker on fire in an area between Phnum Yat and O Ta Vau.

We still control O Rum-el and Ba Tang So. We have continued to attack Pailin with infantry forces and artillery fire.

2. On the eastern part of Pailin:

We set another military truck on fire, south of Phnum Srang hill adjacent to Phnum Veng. All troops on the truck were killed or wounded.

We continue to control Sala Krau.

Here is the situation on 13 April. The invading forces of the communist Vietnamese puppets and two-headed government have begun to collapse bit by bit. They have been plunged into confusion. The National Army of Democratic Kampuchea is attacking them from all directions. They have run out of ammunition, food, and medicine. Many of those who were killed or wounded were left scattered about. Nobody cares about anybody else. Their supply routes have been cut off completely for several consecutive days now.

Division Commander Flees to Thailand

BK1504032994 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] According to a report from the Pailin battlefield, Ritthi, the commander and many officers and soldiers of the puppet 6th Division, routed in battle, have fled into Thai territory.

1. On 12 April, we attacked the enemy troops west of Pailin and at Boeng Pralit, thus blocking the stretches of road within the perimeter of Pailin to the northern, southern, and eastern parts. We smashed the invading forces into bits and launched infantry attacks and shelling on their general command post at Boeng Pralit, killing or wounding many of them. Many others fled in disarray.

2. These escapees are 6th Division commander Ritthi and 60 officers and soldiers. Many of them were wounded. Having been constantly attacked and pressured by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, they fled into Thai territory.

On 12 April, they fled in great alarm onto Thai soil, carrying weapons but wearing only shorts. The local people crowded around this General (Ritthi), because it is strange to see this general in such a position in spite of the earlier propaganda by the Phnom Penh ringleaders and some Western foreigners claiming that Pailin was under Phnom Penh control.

Article Examines Balance of Power Within CPP

BK1504032194 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Apr 94 p A4

[Article by Michael Vickery: "Phnom Penh power plays"]

[Text] The failure of Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] to win a clear majority in last year's election forced the royalist party to form an uneasy coalition with their former foes, the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]. While hailed at the time as symbolic of national reconciliation, the coalition government has been rent by infighting and an inability to enact significant legislation. Much of the current stasis afflicting Phnom Penh has been blamed on CPP hardliners but a closer look at the power balance suggests that this is not the case.

This coalition was mooted throughout 1992, but during the run up to the election collapsed in anti-Funcinpec violence, blamed at the time on the Chea Sim hardliners Sar Kheng and Sin Song. Now that recent invitations to the United States have implicitly exonerated the two, international credence has been lent to Hun Sen who had always maintained the CPP was not responsible for the pre-election mayhem.

In preparation for the coalition the CPP made some quick substitutions among its 51 winners in the National Assembly. Thirty-three mostly old cadres resigned in favor of younger technocrats and intellectuals. The Chea Sim faction lost status, that of Hun Sen gained, and the shifts in CPP personnel indicate sincerity in playing the parliamentary game.

Eight Chea Sim followers, including Sin Song, resigned, leaving eight among the CPP deputies, while fifteen of the "Hun Sen Clan", mostly intellectuals and professionals, remained with eight dropped. Eleven veteran provincial governors were passed over, and only five, all but one young men believed close to Hun Sen, were included. Also excluded were most candidates with a military or security service background, while those included were generals Ke Kimyan, age 38, and Chay Sangyun, 40, sometimes called 'military intellectuals', and the Defence Minister, Tie Banh, 48.

When the Provisional Government was chosen in July, with 37 of its 65 members from outside the assembly, 15 of the CPP members were of the 'Hun Sen Clan', while only four were Chea Sim men; and none was from among the old politicians or Chea stalwarts in the assembly. The affiliation of the remaining ten CPP members of the government was uncertain. The only Chea Sim man in a powerful position was Sin Sen, as a Deputy Minister of Interior and Public Security, the others being in Tourism, Transport, and Public Works.

In October 1993 a new Royal Government of Cambodia was formed, with near equality between the two large parties maintained. Twenty-nine members of the Provisional Government, including 12 CPP and 15 Funcinpec, were dropped, and there were eight new faces, four CPP, three Funcinpec, and one listed without party affiliation.

The new line-up showed some gain for Chea Sim, who moved up from Vice-President to President of the National Assembly. Of the 12 CPP members of the

Provisional Government dropped from the Royal government, three were his men against six from the Hun Sen group. Sin Sen was removed, but another protege, Sar Kheng, came into the government as a Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior.

Still, of the 24 CPP members of the government 11 are considered of the Hun Sen group, with only two certain Chea Sim followers. Most of the rest, because of their relative youth or intellectual background may also be presumed closer to Hun Sen than to Chea Sim.

In the provinces the parties share the 20 governorships equally, with a first deputy from the other party, and the CPP has shifted much of its personnel. In nine provinces, including those whose governors entered the National Assembly, the former governors have been removed. In any case the Funcinpec personnel may be figureheads, because of long-standing CPP relationships with subordinate officials and he population. In general, during 1979-93 the provinces were run by local people, not just functionnairies sent out from Phnom Penh. This does not, however, guarantee tight party control, and some provinces may constitute their own factions.

In the future, equal attention should be given to Funcinpec factions. Ranariddh has complained that not all members vote for his proposals, and there is a Funcinpec faction, probably centered on Sam Rangsi, which is lukewarm towards monarchy, especially of the Sihanouk variety. Likewise, members of the KPNLF/BLDP [Khmer People's National Liberation Front/Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party] of Son Sann, whose organization has never been royalist, may find more congenial colleagues among the new CPP elite.

The first sign of realignment may be in the military. Before the election both the KPNLF and the Sihanoukists suffered defections of generals to Phnom Penh; and immediately after the election the commanders of those three armies agreed to unite. The Phnom Penh army was headed by young generals without a Vietnam background, probably closer to Hun Sen than to Chea Sim, and the KPNLF army was run by a faction which formed the Liberal Democratic Party, a group of non-royalist younger men. Then the reorganized Cambodian Armed Forces, in a return to the situation preceding Untac [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] intervention, launched a campaign against the Khmer Rouge, adopting Hun Sen's policy against that of Sihanouk and Ranariddh.

If they succeed, they will have proven that peace in Cambodia required no more than international neglect of the Khmer Rouge and normalization of relations with Phnom Penh, and could have been achieved years ago.

Indonesia

Trade Minister Comments on GATT Talks

BK1504090094 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Trade Minister Satrio Budiarjo Yudono has told newsmen in Jakarta that Indonesia hopes all developed countries will be united in observing the agreement on liberal, fair, and non-discriminative international trade based on the GATT framework.

He said that following the signing of the final act of the Uruguay Round trade talks, Indonesia and other developing countries hoped their export products could gain more market access in the developed countries.

According to the minister, it is important for developed countries to open their markets to goods from developing countries considering that Indonesia, one of the developing countries, had already adopted a liberal trade policy in line with the outcome of the Uruguay Round talks. He said that apart from that, the developed countries should provide technical assistance to developing countries instead of attaching other conditional clauses to the trade agreement.

It is hoped that the Uruguay Round trade talks on textiles and agriculture could create a trade policy that is not contradictory to the agreement reached at Uruguay Round talks and that trade discrimination against developing countries will be eliminated.

Lighthouses To Define Border Lines With PNG

BK1504101594 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0848 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Jayapura, April 15 (ANTARA)—Papua New Guinea (PNG) finally agreed to allow an Indonesian Government-designate land survey team to clearly define the borders dividing the two countries in preparation for the construction of lighthouses in the island's coasts.

"Indonesia will build two lighthouses in the south and north coastal areas of the island to prevent border violations with PNG usually committed by local fishermen," head of Border Affairs Department of the Jaya provincial administration M.D. Lewar said Thursday.

The plan was discussed during the border liaison meeting in 1993 and was agreed in the first round of the meeting in March 21 to 23, 1994 held in Lorengau, capital city of PNG's province of Manus, he said.

According to the Lorengau's agreement, the lighthouse in the northern coastal area will be built in the border of Skouw village, Jayapura regency and Wutung village, PNG's province of Sandaun, while the lighthouse in the south will be built in the borders of Irian Jaya's regency of Merauke and western province of PNG.

Apart from building lighthouses, Indonesia will also build five guard-houses as support facilities for the lighthouses, especially in th remote areas, he said.

Lewar expressed hopes that with the lighthouses, fishermen from Irian Jaya and PNG would better know which water they are fishing.

Philippines

Ramos Approves 'Actualization' of AFTA Measures

BK1404075394 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has approved the adoption of new measures to speed up the actualization of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Free Trade Area or AFTA following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade or GATT. With the signing of the Uruguay Round final act this month, the ASEAN-member countries want to ensure that preferential treatment under the AFTA is not diminished. The ASEAN groups the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Brunei Darussalam.

President Ramos approved three basic approaches as proposed by the Philippine Council for ASEAN Cooperation's Technical Board. These are:

—Broadening the coverage of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff or CEPT by including products selected from the temporary exclusion list;

—Broadening the same inclusion list by including unprocessed agricultural products from the permanent exclusion list; and,

—Improving the existing AFTA CEPT inclusion list.

Under the first approach, some 52 items were first delisted from temporary exclusion list. These items are those classified as natural processed and those under Memorandum Order No. 95 implementing the Magna Carta for Small Farmers and the government rationalization program.

A line-by-line evaluation of the remaining 662 items in the temporary exclusion list will be done to determine which should be included in the AFTA CEPT scheme based on a set of criteria.

Under the second approach, some unprocessed agricultural products will be lifted from the permanent exclusion list to conform with increasing criteria adopted by other member countries.

The third approach includes measures shortening from 15 years to 10 years the period for bringing the tariff levels of 1,086 [word indistinct] to 5 percent or less, as well as deepening the tariff cuts.

Threat of Rebel Groups Weakened, Peace Assured

BK1504085694 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Report by Marie Sena Ruiz]

[Excerpt] The threat of all rebel groups has weakened and the peace process being pushed by government is assured. This was the assessment made by the National Security Council [NSC] on the current economic and political situations in the country.

Briefing palace [presidential office] newsmen after the meeting in Malacanang, national security adviser Jose Almonte said all rebel groups, including leftist, rightist, and Muslim rebels, no longer pose a threat to national security. Almonte reported an overall improved peace and order situation and said government is completely in control of problems that debilitate the economy.

The NSC also adopted a resolution endorsing to Congress the amnesty proclamation announced by President Ramos. The resolution urged Congress to ratify the proclamation.

Also during the said National Security Council meeting, Executive Secretary Teofisto Guingona said, the country's now poised for economic takeoff as economic and political reforms have been put in place. Guingona said the major economic reforms were designed to level the playing field to promote global competitiveness and make opportunities available to everyone.

On the economic front, acting Trade Secretary Ernesto Ordonez assessed the impact of the oil price increase and its subsequent rollback. The secretary said that the oil price increase hardly affected the prices of basic commodities because of measures adopted by government.

For his part, Finance Secretary Roberto De Ocampo underscored the importance of tax measures/alternatives to the oil levy, particularly the (?cost) and tariff program, (?special) progress, and completion of major projects of the government.

The fourth National Security Council meeting under the Ramos Administration was convened to address vital internal and external security concerns.

Meanwhile, President Ramos today ordered the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission [PACC] headed by Vice President Joseph Estrada to exert all efforts to stop the new kidnap gangs behind the latest kidnapping cases in Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

The chief executive also ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to support the PACC in tracking down the kidnappers who are believed to be former members of the dismantled Red Scorpion Group. The president issued the order after receiving reports that several new kidnapping cases were reported in Metro Manila and Benguet province. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

* General Criticizes U.S. Economic Embargo

942E0039 Paris DOAN KET in Vietnamese
Jan 94 pp 12, 13

[Interview with Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang in Paris on 29 October 1993 by N.S.]

[Excerpt] At the end of October 1993, Senior Lt. Gen. Tran Van Quang headed a delegation of the Vietnam Veterans Association that had come to Paris to attend the congress of the French ARAC Veterans Association. On the afternoon of 29 October, Senior Lt. Gen. Tran Van Quang visited the Association of Vietnamese in France and met with more than 50 Vietnamese veterans of the Second World War at the association's headquarters at 16 Petit Musc, Quarter 4, Paris. On this occasion, Senior Lt. Gen. graciously granted an interview to DOAN KET. [passage omitted]

[DOAN KET] In the past period, every time the head of the American administration has reviewed the embargo against Vietnam, "secret files" on "American MIAs" have always came to light. Some people have even said that you were the author of one of those "files."

[Quang] As you know, in recent years, each time the American government has raised the issue of ending the embargo against Vietnam, damaging stories about American MIAs have appeared. The so-called "secret files" are part of this. In 1992, people published a photograph and claimed that the picture showed an American still alive in Vietnam. They also claimed that the Vietnamese government had sent a number of prisoners of war to the former Soviet Union. In fact, American officials have admitted that those stories are all fabrications. As for the "secret file" supposedly written by me, after meeting with me and investigating the matter thoroughly, General Vessey, the special envoy of the American president, and Senator J. Kerry admitted that "the materials are not believable." The reason is that the data are inaccurate. The number of prisoners of war mentioned in the materials are even greater than the number disclosed by the American government. What is interesting is that people have said that I reported those data to the Politburo of the Vietnamese Communist Party in September 1972. But at that time, I was in command on the Tri Thien-Hue front.

What is the reason for these fabrications? It's because a number of Americans remain stubborn and want to poison Vietnamese-American relations. But as people know, continuing the embargo against Vietnam is immoral and contrary to the trend toward cooperation and friendship between nations, and this is making it difficult for us to rebuild our country. And in addition, this is harming American businessmen. I think that with an independent foreign line that desires to be friends with all countries that are striving for peace and stability and the development of our country and with the struggle of the wholesome forces in the world, including those in the United States, the effectiveness of the American embargo will gradually decline.

[DOAN KET] Vietnamese in France in general and readers of DOAN KET in particular would like to know more about the Vietnam Veterans Association, of which you are the president. In particular, people would like to know more about the spirit and contents of the association's activities.

[Quang] The Vietnam Veterans Association is a mass organization whose task is to foster solidarity among all discharged cadres and soldiers of the Vietnam People's Army and guerrillas who fought in the wars to liberate and defend the fatherland. We want to help each other to maintain a spirit of patriotism and the tradition of "Uncle Ho troops," help each other became a part of ordinary life, and look after the material and spiritual lives of each other. Other tasks of the association are to contribute to maintaining political security and defending the fatherland, disseminate experiences to the young generation, participate in the socioeconomic programs, and contribute to foreign affairs activities, particularly with veterans in other countries. With a tradition of patriotism and love for socialism, the Vietnam Veterans Association is doing its utmost to hit the above targets, and initial results have been achieved. Thus, the party and state and the people have confidence in the association, and they have given us encouragement and help.

[DOAN KET] What are your views on those Vietnamese who fought in the Saigon army and who are now living abroad?

[Quang] As for Vietnamese who found in the Saigon army, we feel that except for a small number who are still reactionaries, the great majority of these people, both officers and enlisted men, are patriotic people. Today, our country is independent, democratic, free, and united. National construction and national valor are stimulating all people to abandon the old hatreds and look to the future. We believe that those people will gradually awaken. With the great solidarity policy of the state, many of those who once worked for the Saigon regime are now making an effort to become integrated into the life of the people. They are seeking profits and and happiness in the movement to restore the country, and they are proud of the very important achievements scored by the fatherland. As for our veterans, we hope that those people will forget the past, look to the future, and quickly become integrated in the free and independent life of the country. Our forefathers said that "one drop of blood is more precious than a pond of water." The peoples of the world and many governments in the world are encouraging and supporting our renovation movement and so how can those people, who are Vietnamese, stand outside this tide?

On this occasion, on behalf of all Vietnamese veterans, through DOAN KET I would like to wish all Vietnamese now living in France happiness and good health. We hope that they will return to their beloved fatherland and contribute to building the country so that it can catch up with the other civilized countries in the world and have a brilliant future.

Military Delegation Holds Talks in Beijing

BK1504092894 Hanoi VNA in English 0655 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 15—A high-level military delegation led by Senior Lieutenant Gen. Dao Dinh Luyen, member of the party Central Committee, vice minister of defence and chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army, has been in China for an official friendship visit since April 9. The visit was made at the invitation of the chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of China. The Vietnamese delegation held talks on April 10 with a Chinese military delegation led by Sr. Lt. Gen Chi Haotian, chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of China. The two sides informed each other of the economic construction and military activities in their countries and unanimously agreed to continue strengthening the time-honoured friendship between the peoples and armies of Vietnam and China. The delegation was received on the same day by Liu Huaqing, permanent member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and deputy head of its Military Commission. It was also received by Qiao Shi, permanent member of the Communist Party of China's Political Bureau and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and deputy head of its Military Commission. [sentence as received]

It called on the Chairman Mao Memorial Hall, laid a flower wreath to the Monument to the People's Heroes in the Tiananmen Square, and visited the College of National Defence. On April 12, the delegation left Beijing for a tour of various localities in China.

Further on Hoa Binh Hydroelectric Plant Ceremony

BK1504085894 Hanoi VNA in English 0634 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 15—The Hoa Binh Hydro-Electric Plant, the largest in Vietnam, has reached its full designed output of 1,920 mw [megawatts], with the launching of its eight and last turbine on Thursday morning. Construction of the plant was started on November 6, 1979, with assistance from the former Soviet Union, and is continued with the help of the Russian Federation. Since the first turbine became operational in December 1988, the plant straddling the Black River west of Hanoi, has supplied the country with 17.15 billion kwh [kilowatt hours]. Last year's output was 4.73 billion kwh, or 45 [as received] of the national output. The big ceremony held for the completion of the last turbine was attended, among other ranking officials, by Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong and visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet also sent his congratulations to all the workers and specialists who have taken part in building this historic project. Finishing touches are being made to the plant, which is to be officially opened in September.

Canadian Transport Minister Arrives for Visit

BK1404130394 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Canada's Minister of Transport Doug Young is in Vietnam to develop bilateral, economic, and trade relations with this country. The Canadian minister is accompanied by a group of Canadian businessmen. The delegation is scheduled to call on Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and have working sessions with senior officials to discuss the opportunity of Canadian participation in the development of Vietnam's infrastructure.

Joint Development of Oil, Gas Discussed With India

BK1504095594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] India has offered to put up a modern gas-based thermal power plant in Vietnam. The Indian power minister, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, heading the Indian delegation to the Joint Commission meeting in Hanoi also offered to take up more exploration work for oil and gas in Vietnam. The Vietnamese foreign minister, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, asked for greater training of Vietnamese personnel in oil and gas exploration by India. Calling for greater financial arrangements to meet the target of $100 million in their two-way trade, Mr. Cam invited Indian investments in railways, power, telecom, and other infrastructure projects. Our Southeast Asia correspondent says India offered its technology and expertise in a wide area covering mining, petro chemicals, food processing, textiles, cement, sugar, pharmaceuticals, computer software, hotel industry, and defense equipment.

Relations With Czech Republic Reviewed

BK1404122394 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry says Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec will visit Vietnam soon. We now review the relations between Vietnam and Czech.

It will be an official visit by a Czech foreign minister in two years since the country separated into the Federation of Czech and Slovakia and it also is the first visit by a foreign minister from an Eastern European country following the end of the Cold War. The visit will be made in an international situation, which is changing positively.

Czech has attached a great importance to its traditional relations with Vietnam and other Asia-Pacific countries. Over many years, and particularly in the past two years, the relations between Vietnam and the Czechslovak Federation in general and Czech in particular, have been constantly consolidated and developed. Exchange of high-level visits has been made. Czech has helped Vietnam in training of thousands of students and apprentices and post-graduate students. Many now hold important positions in leading offices of Vietnam.

Vietnam and Czech have had labor cooperation for many years. In the near future, the two countries will continue to sign agreements on labor cooperation under which thousands of Vietnamese guest workers will be dispatched to Czech every year. Czech has also agreed to grant gratuitous aid to Vietnam in training another 200 Vietnamese apprentices and given 12 scholarships to university students to study in Czech. The Czech Government has granted 13 million U.S. dollars in aid to help repatriate Vietnamese guest workers due to changes in Eastern Europe. In 1993, two-way trade turnover between Vietnam and Czech reached 13 million U.S. dollars.

During the coming visit to Vietnam, the Czech prime minister will be accompanied by dozens of businessmen to study Vietnam's domestic and foreign policies and economic renovation and to seek the possibility of strengthening and expanding cooperation with Vietnam in the new era.

National Assembly Chairman To Visit India

BK1404145894 Hanoi VNA in English 1434 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 14—A delegation of the National Assembly led by its Chairman Nong Duc Manh will soon pay an official friendship visit to India as guest of the president of the lower house, announced the National Assembly's office here today.

* Explosives Industry Description Reported

* Industrial Explosives in Vietnam

942E0037A Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 16 Feb 94 p 3

[Article by Nguyen Van Thu]

[Text] Industrial explosives have been in use in Vietnam for about a century now. After the north was liberated, we continued to use explosives to mine coal and metal ore, quarry rock, and build roads and bridges and hydroelectric projects. Each year, we consume about 10-20,000 tons of industrial explosives. In the past, these were imported mainly from the (former) Soviet Union and China.

During the past 5 years, in accord with the policy of coordinating national defense with the economy, military organizations have stepped up research and produced approximately 4-5,000 tons of industrial explosives a year, satisfying some of our needs for such materials. Making full use of the surplus capabilities in national defense production, in the coming years, the volume of production may reach 10,000 tons a year. Many groups of scientific and technical cadres from the Technical General Department, the National Defense Industry and Economics General Department, the Military Technical Institute, and the Explosives Technical Center at the Military Technical Institute who have gone abroad to do research and familiarize themselves with the manufacturing of military explosives have had a chance to view the production of industrial explosives.

In many countries, the production of industrial explosives is coordinated closely with the production of military explosives, with those production installations directly subordinate to the military or to industrial ministries. The production of explosives (both military and non-military) involves special techniques, many years of experience, and, in particular, ranks of skilled technical cadres and workers and means of preventing explosions.

During the past 5 years, on behalf of the state, the State Science and Technology Commission (now the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment) has guided research in manufacturing industrial explosives. This has included many state-level topics, an example of which is the KC-03 program. The results of the research are very encouraging, and they have soon been used in production. Almost all of the state-level topics have been allotted to installations in the military, and the topics have been inspected by more than 10 state-level scientific and technical councils with the participation of the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment, the Labor Safety Inspection Committee (Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Affairs), the Fire Protection Department (Ministry of Interior), explosives experts from the Science and Technology Department and the Coalimex Corporation (Ministry of Energy), the Mining and Geology College, the Military Technical Institute, the Military Explosives Center [MEC], and the National Defense Industry and Economics General Department. The topics and products inspected include black explosives and slow-burning fuses (Z121), Ammonite AD1 (Z113, Z121), fire conducting line (Z121), lighted and electrical fuse boxes (Z121), TX1 and TZ1A explosives (Z131), TMN 15 explosives (Z115), VEOT explosives (MEC), Zerno 21/79 (Z121), TNT (Z131, Z113, Z115), Watergel TNP1 (MEC), and Watergel TFD 15 (Z115). It is predicted that Watergel TNP2 and gelatin explosives (MEC) will be examined this year.

Since 1991, the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment has given the task of building and improving industrial explosives laboratories to the Military Explosives Center and allotted funds to it for this. Today, explosives that are produced domestically or imported from abroad are all inspected at this center, with the exception of safety tests for methane gas and coal dust, which are conducted in the explosion chamber at the Mine Chemicals Enterprise (Coalimex).

Military installations have been given permission to manufacture many types of fireworks, sky-rockets, mortars, small firecrackers, ocean rescue flares, sports ammunition, and bullets for hunting rifles to serve the needs of the people and major festivals.

As for the national defense industry, the Z131 and Z113 plants plan to import the technology needed to manufacture advanced industrial explosives. This will be imported from several countries.

Gelatin explosives first began to be manufactured during the late 1970s in France, Sweden, England, and the United States and have been in common use in the world for the past decade. Sweden calls this Emulite, and China calls this gelatin explosives. Countries refer to this as oil gelatin, because it is composed of two basic compounds: a very thin continuous oil compound around a non-continuous compound consisting of very small drops of an oxygenated saline solution one-tenth of a micron in size having a strong bee-hive structure because of mixing the gelatin agents. Besides this, people have said that as compared with such highly explosive materials as gas bubbles, plastics, and small crystals one-tenth micron in size, gelatin explosives have many advantages. For example, they are very safe, they withstand water well, they are very effective in breaking up rock, they are easy to charge in the mines, they give off little poisonous gas, and so on. Using watergel and gelatin explosives is the path that we must follow in order to gradually replace the older types of explosives such as ammonite, TNT, zerno, and dynamite. Once we are able to produce these domestically, the cost of gelatin explosives will drop greatly (approximately $500 per ton). Today, imports cost about $700-1,100 per ton, depending on the type and the country selling the explosives.

For several decades now, the state has had a policy of closely controlling explosives. In 1968, it promulgated Standard 83 KHKT-LDTBXH-NV, which made the science and technology sector—formerly the State Science and Technology Commission—and the labor and internal affairs sectors responsible for controlling all aspects based on the functions assigned. Today, the general stipulation in our country is that the production, storage, and circulation of industrial explosives, both within and outside the military, are to be monitored by the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment, the State Labor Safety Inspection Committee, and the Fire Protection Department, and things must be done in accord with Explosive Materials Standard TCVN 4586-88 and Decision 237 QD promulgated by the State Science and Technology Commission (now the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment) on 10 June 1988.

In 1994, construction activities need more and more industrial explosives to mine coal, quarry rock, manufacture cement, build railroads and expressways, build hydroelectric projects, and satisfy other needs of daily life. In the face of this situation, we feel that the state should soon conduct studies and establish mechanisms and procedures concerning controlling the production of industrial explosives and, in particular, concerning the supply and distribution of industrial explosives. Steps must be taken to avoid irrational obstacles and having to go through so many unnecessary intermediary steps as at present. Some people think that controlling supply and distribution should be unified in one ministry (the Ministry of National Defense or the Ministry of Energy). Others think that the Ministry of Energy should supply and distribute explosives within the sphere of the coal sector and that the Ministry of National Defense should supply and distribute explosives in the other sectors. These plans are too bureaucratic and rigid. When engaged in buying industrial explosives from foreign corporations including ICI, SNPE, The Bac Phuong TQ Corporation, and the NFC TQ Corporation. We observed that they directly distribute and export the products that they produce without having to go through any intermediary corporation.

Based on the specific situation concerning studying, manufacturing, distributing, and controlling industrial explosives in many countries and in Vietnam today, we propose that if the state authorizes a sector to produce or import a product, it should also allow that sector to directly supply and distribute that product. This will reduce unnecessary intermediaries, and reduce the cost of producing coal, cement, ore, and rock and encourage research and the production of many types of essential industrial explosives while still maintaining safety and security. This is because each sector that produces, supplies, and distributes industrial explosives will be monitored by state organizations. We believe that in the coming period, with respect to industrial explosives, new advances will be made in research, production, and use to support the building of our country.

* Defense Industry Serving the Economy

942E0037B Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 16 Feb 94 p 3

[Article by Ho Xuan Nam, engineer, director of Chemical Engineering Corporation 13, and Thanh Cao]

[Text] For many years now, along with the Z121, Z131, and Z115 plants, the Z113 Plant has been using the techniques used by the military to produce explosives to produce industrial explosives to serve the national economic sectors. This is an economic commodity for which long-term guidelines have been set. In this sphere, it can be said that since the end of the 1970s, when the country encountered difficulties concerning aid, the national defense industry has been promptly providing a large quantity of explosives for the coal sector to support production. To date, the national defense industry has simultaneously produced everything from fuses and detonators to explosives. Some plants are turning to producing gelatin explosives, which is a type of explosive having many advantages during use. Along with this, the military's control and protection system has been perfected and consists of scientific research organizations, separate storehouses, and special means of transportation. Many of the explosive materials produced by the national defense plants and Z113 have won gold medals at international industrial fairs. In recent years, the use of explosives by the economic sectors has increased greatly. Our national defense plants have satisfied 50 percent of those needs. If the state invests a suitable amount, the national defense industry will be able to satisfy all of the domestic needs for explosives.

As everyone knows, explosives are a special type of commodity that can be used for both military and economic purposes. Thus, decentralizing control and investing in expanding production must be examined based on this special nature of explosives. The method that has been used up to now to decentralize control is very illogical. Two decades ago, when the country was concentrating everything for the front lines, the use of explosives in the economic sphere was concentrated mainly in the coal sector. Thus, it made sense for the government to make this sector responsible for controlling the materials. But the war ended a long time ago. Besides the coal sector, many other sectors such as the construction and communications sectors also use explosives. However, because the above decision has not yet been revised, control and distribution matters must go through the coal sector, which has given it a monopoly in distribution. This has created many problems, increased non-production expenses, and done much damage to both the production installations and installations that use explosives.

As one of the national defense plants directly involved in producing industrial explosives, we hope that the state will soon issue a decision in line with today's realities. This will enable the national defense plants to manifest their potential and better support economic construction. At the same time, this will contribute to promoting domestic production, to effectively implementing the Politburo's resolution on solidifying and expanding the national defense industry, and to increasing the country's defense strength.

* General Quang's Speech on 'Peaceful Evolution'

Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN in Vietnamese Feb 94 pp 14-17

[Summary of a speech by Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang, chairman of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Veterans Association, given at the Third Plenum of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Veterans Association]

[Text] It's the nature of imperialism to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries in order to topple and enslave them.

The party has educated the Vietnamese people, particularly veterans, about that, and actual life has proven this during the revolutionary struggle. Even though they have suffered defeats in armed aggression, the imperialists have not changed their nature or plots. Now, along with making preparations to carry on armed aggression, their main method of aggression today is to cause turmoil and disorder and carry on "peaceful evolution" activities in an attempt to turn Vietnam into a dependent country within their orbit. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries in Eastern Europe, they have promoted this strategy, which they refer to as a strategy for expanding victory. This is a very insidious strategy that is being carried on in two ways: They are stirring up turmoil and fostering local conflicts and carrying on "peaceful evolution" activities within each country in order to cause crises, poverty, and conflicts so that they can easily gain control. The situation in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, African countries, and a number of countries on other continents have proven this point today, there are 32 hot spots affecting 36 countries.

In order to carry out this worldwide counterrevolutionary strategy, the imperialists have put forth four main policies:

a. Both compete and cooperate with the major capitalist countries—Western Europe and Japan—in order to share the responsibilities, which actually means working together to eliminate the regimes of the independent countries and divide world rule.

b. Continue to promote "democratization" in the SNG countries and Eastern Europe, which actually means to continue eliminating the achievements of socialism at the root and quickly promote the "capitalization" of those countries.

c. Continue to transform the remaining socialist countries, the most important of which are China and Vietnam, and use Vietnam as the spearhead in the attack, because China is a large country that would take much more time; once Vietnam has been transformed, this evolutionary process will be promoted in China.

d. Solidify and strengthen the political and military position of the United States in important zones, and gradually shift the center of immediate foreign affairs activities to Asia.

Naturally, this is a subjective plot of theirs. Today, with the negative lessons from the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and other countries such as African countries that are suffering because of imperialist plots, the people of the world are on guard. The common trend today is toward national independence and peace. Internally, the American imperialists are facing many difficulties. They can't do everything they want. However, the decisive thing is that countries and peoples must be aware of their insidious plot and integrated offensive strategy—which includes political, ideological, organizational, economic, cultural, and social strategies, weapons, and both foreign and domestic forces—in order to constantly be on guard and actively defeat each of their stratagems and destructive plots.

Vietnam is one of the key points where the enemy is carrying on "peaceful evolution" and trying to cause disorder. After many years, their plans to infiltrate armed exiles into Vietnam in order to establish "war zones" and disrupt things have been defeated. Thus, they have decided that the main method used to attack Vietnam will be "peaceful evolution" in conjunction with zonal violence. And they are coordinating outside forces with domestic forces. In each specific area, they rely on the hard-core forces and use specific forms of activities legal, quasi-legal, illegal, political, ideological, economic, cultural, and so on in order to build up their forces and political strength and create the proper conditions for "peaceful evolution" and disorder.

As for strategic methods, they are using Cambodia and other conditions to penetrate Vietnam. They are blocking and destroying Vietnamese-Chinese relations. They are trying to prevent Vietnam from becoming strong economically, they continue to isolate us politically, and they are promoting ideological and moral decay. They are trying to penetrate state organizations, political and social organizations, and degraded and degenerate cadres, make use of the conflicts among the people and the mistakes of the cadres, and gradually invalidate the leadership of the party. Combining those two formulas disorder and loss of political stability and "peaceful evolution" will transform the system into a non-democratic, non-socialist system.

In reality, they have carried on many activities to stir up trouble and create political instability, causing certain difficulties for us. Not including 1992 and prior years, in 1993 alone they carried out a number of activities. A typical example was what happened on 7 March in Ho Chi Minh City and nearby areas. They set off explosions, set fires, and planned to take over the city's radio and television stations and present themselves as a "government appealing for international help." With the spirit of vigilance of the people and people's security forces, we immediately crushed them.

Thanks to the vigilance of the people and the correct and timely manner in which things have been handled by the administrative organizations, their plots and stratagems have all failed.

Based on their activities, we can make generalizations about a number of their principal stratagems:

They have used the mistakes made by a number of localities in implementing the policies and the gullibility and superstitious nature of a number of people to stir up trouble.

They have set off simple and varied explosive devices and coordinated forces on the spot with forces from other localities.

They have united reactionary elements posing as religious people and reactionary elements among the ethnic minorities, a number of puppet troops, and puppets of the old regime who refuse to reform themselves.

They are in contact with people abroad and receive commands from abroad.

Following their defeats in 1993 and in prior years, they realized that the situation was not yet ripe. In their view, for the situation to be ripe, there must be four conditions:

1. Steps must be taken to ensure that the people, particularly elements of the upper class and those engaged in social activities, are vague about political concepts, lose their socialist orientation, and accept the doctrine of pluralism and multiple parties. The party's leadership and the administration's control must gradually be invalidated. They say that there is a "germ" of this today, but this has not yet become a tide, and they are not yet strong enough.

2. There must be activist forces within using many forms of organization, including social democracy and radical democracy. This exists today but is not yet strong enough.

3. The reactionary and backward forces and rabble-rousers must be united under a unified command. They say that this is in the process of being formed.)

4. Active support must be provided from abroad.

In order to bring about these conditions, they say that the resistance factions must be united and that well-known people must serve as the "banners" in propagating ideas and theories and carrying on legal and quasi-legal activities. Efforts must be concentrated on attacking a number of our positions and policies and specific mistakes made by us and on criticizing a number of leaders.

They say that Vietnam has a tradition of patriotism and national pride and that the CPV has seized the nationalist banner. Because of this, slogans such as "eliminate socialism, eliminate the communist party" cannot be used. Instead, the mistakes and difficulties of the party and administration must be used to gradually erode and invalidate the leadership of the party. Only then will it be possible to create the conditions for toppling the system.

Although the destructive activities mentioned above are important, they represent just the tip. Much more dangerous are their offensive activities on the ideological, political, economic, cultural, organizational, and espionage fronts. That is the core of their "peaceful evolution" offensive.

1. On ideological viewpoints, they have put forth the following requirements and contents:

They say that in the stage when the situation is not yet ripe, requiring the people to directly oppose socialism and the communist party is excessive. Thus, socialism should not be criticized in its entirety. Instead, attacks should concentrate on the basic points of socialism such as the dictatorship of the proletariat, a single leading party, human rights, freedom, and so on. In order to do this, they have proposed a "third path," which they say does not follow capitalism or socialism or any other doctrine except freedom and prosperity. This is really aimed at abandoning the socialist path to follow the capitalist path. They reject the leadership of the communist party and the dictatorship of the proletariat, saying that the dictatorship of the proletariat is undemocratic and that the leading party has replaced god in ruling the people. They argue that President Ho's choice has not been fulfilled. While independence has been won, there is no freedom or happiness. And because Marxism-Leninism has made mistakes, the party has had to renovate itself. But the party has gone only half-way in renovating itself and so people must demand that it renovate itself more. The basic principles of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought must be abandoned and so on and so on.

2. They have put forth an action program—which they call a scenario— on Vietnam's transitional path. The contents are:

At the start, there is no need to eliminate the communist party, but the party must renovate itself further. The party can then transform itself into a non-Marxist party and implement a system of political pluralism.

The entire economy must be de-nationalized, the "independence" of the mass organizations must be assured and progressive and moderate political organizations must gradually come into being, with the tendency being toward political pluralism. Freedom must be expanded, opposition must be accepted, and so on.

If the above "scenario" is implemented, the communist party and Vietnam's social system will be transformed into the system that they want, and that will be a "victory without war."

They are disseminating the above arguments quite broadly using many means each week there are more than 100 documents, and in October 1993 alone there were 650 documents. They are also using meetings to propagandize the above theory and spreading rumors and sowing doubts. Recently, at a debate on Vietnam held by a number of Japanese businessmen, they mentioned having the CPV transform itself into a national party and having the Vietnamese system transform itself into a capitalist system.

3. On organization:

They are not only propagating an anti-socialist viewpoint but also following the organizational path. Besides gathering people to openly voice opposition, they are trying to penetrate us using a variety of methods such as holding scientific debates, having groups come and go, and reviewing cooperative plans on the economic, cultural, and social fronts. We do not oppose the debates on economic and cultural exchanges. We have studied and accepted the scientific achievements of man and the economic and social management experiences of other countries. But we must wage a resolute struggle against the viewpoints of the enemy, who are using every form and means possible to destroy our system.

4. The economy:

This is another very important struggle front against "peaceful evolution." Besides the economic embargo imposed by the American imperialists, the large capitalist countries have both fought for Vietnamese markets in order to reap large profits and also used the economic path in the hope of leading us into their trap. The following are a few examples:

They have promised to invest a lot, but in reality, they have invested very little.

They have invested mainly in private enterprises.

They have emphasized investing in the travel, services, and processing sectors.

Through economic activities, they have propagated depraved views and a corrupt culture, and they have bribed and corrupted cadres.

5. Culture, morality, and espionage:

These, too, are fronts on which they are attacking us. Depraved cultural products that stimulate violence and debauchery, propagate a pragmatic way of life, and destroy good morals and good customs are corrupting some of our youths and children. Espionage and the theft of national secrets and activities aimed at causing splits among the people pose an immediate and long-term danger to defending and building the country.

The "peaceful evolution" activities and other disruptive activities of the enemy forces pose a danger to the independence and path of development of our country.

Opposing and defeating those activities is a strategic task of the entire party, all the people, and the entire political system of the state. This is a struggle front to defend the system and protect the fruits of the revolution and our nation's path forward. As revolutionary leaders have said, this struggle is a struggle on the political, ideological, economic, cultural, security, national defense, and social fronts. It must be waged using both education, discipline, and the laws; it must be both peaceful and violent; production must be stepped up; attention must be given to the people's standard of living; and the enemy must be isolated and exposed in order to defeat them.

The immediate thing is to concentrate on the following:

We must adhere firmly to a revolutionary socialist viewpoint, thoroughly understand the renovation lines and targets of the party with a scientific basis, and implement [the lines] more and more effectively. While making an effort to contribute to the struggle to have a prosperous people, strong country, fair society, and civilized country with a socialist orientation, we must never forget that the expansion of production with many economic elements must have a socialist orientation. We must open the door and study the scientific and technical achievements of other countries, but we must not forget to adhere to the concept of independence, sovereignty, and self-reliance. We must expand investment cooperation in order to attract capital and raw materials and gain experience, but we must not forget the struggle to eliminate the opportunistic and destructive factors. We must be vigilant and actively criticize the erroneous arguments and the distortions of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought, socialism, and the leadership of the party.

Democracy must be elevated along with maintaining discipline and the laws. Those two aspects are inseparable in building strength. Democracy starts from the interests of the people, by the people, and for the people. Discipline is necessary to defend democracy.

There must be active participation in mobilizing the masses, implementing the policy of great national solidarity, handling the "burning issues" and conflicts among the people, implementing the economic-cultural-social development programs and security and national defense programs in the localities to bring practical benefits to the people, and opposing corruption, smuggling, and other social evils.

* Effects of Anticorruption Campaign Analyzed

942E0038A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
4 Mar 94 p 3

[Article by Tran Quan]

[Text] The anticorruption and antismuggling struggle, which is a major policy of the party and state, is aimed at protecting economic development and wholesomeness in social life. This is also a need of the people in building a "prosperous people and strong country." But enemies of the revolution and political malcontents and deviates are using this struggle to weaken the people's confidence and destabilize the country.

They are making use of the widespread corruption and smuggling to "generalize," viewing all of our party and state organizations as "corrupt," and encouraging the "most depraved people, who can only cause destruction, to rebuild things." They do not accept the anticorruption and antismuggling struggle being carried on by the party and state. They are spreading distorted information, smearing the leading cadres of the party and state, and charging that those people are involved in corruption and smuggling. Unfortunately, their improper activities have temporarily shaken a number of people who lack accurate information and knowledge about the present situation and increased their dissatisfaction with life today. Those black arguments, which continue to be passed on "along the street," are causing confusion in public opinion. But the black clouds cannot obscure the sun. The entire world recognizes the important and positive achievements scored by our country in the renovation movement. There is no way that the enemy can refute that. Those achievements prove that most of our cadres and party members and most of our people are adhering firmly to the wonderful traditions and, for the people and country, are exploiting the advantages and struggling to overcome the shortcoming and weaknesses in order to ensure that the revolution continues to make great strides forward. Only a few cadres and party members, including a number of high-level cadres, are degraded, and they are gradually being purged. Because of this, we think that while we must resolutely and urgently promote the anticorruption and antismuggling struggle, we must also heighten vigilance and promptly block the actions of the enemy and malcontents who are making use of this struggle to destroy the country. To do this:

Maintaining political stability today must be regarded as the leading task in building a "prosperous people and strong country." The main thing is to stabilize the feelings of the people and not allow the enemy and malcontents to start a "psychological war." When propagandizing the anticorruption and anti-smuggling struggle, the mass means of information must also give attention to exposing the actions of the enemy who are misusing that struggle to stir up trouble and ruin things so that they cannot make use of the loopholes in the contents and methods of implementation.

The party committee echelons must monitor things and adhere to public opinion in order to promptly implement suitable propaganda policies and actively prevent the various types of "psychological warfare" from doing any damage. Having doubts and fearing that blocking the counterpropaganda arguments will "hinder democracy" are misconceptions about democracy. Such doubts and fears represent a failure to distinguish clearly between the legitimate aspirations of the people and the plots of the enemy and arguments of the malcontents.

The judicial organizations must promptly find and prosecute those who are intentionally distorting the truth with the aim of tarnishing the reputation of the honest people in the party leadership and administrative organizations and disrupting the building of the country or who are intentionally publishing illegal materials. Disrupting the stability of the country and destroying the people's confidence in the revolution can sometimes do greater damage than the material value of many cases of corruption and smuggling added together.

The party and state must constantly elevate the principle of democratic centralism. Cadres and party members must make an effort to maintain a concept of organization and discipline and be on guard against the "psychological warfare" and other destructive plots of the enemy. They must not speak in an unprincipled manner or in ways that unintentionally aid the enemy.

A number of people are still uncertain about the the term unprincipled "freedom, openness, and democracy." They do not realize that this is the weapon that enemies and reactionaries are using to attack the party in power. We have many good lessons to help us be aware of these plots and prevent them from interfering with the implementation of the present struggle against negative aspects.

Catholic Committee Holds Fourth Meeting

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[Text] The Vietnam Second Catholic Solidarity General Committee held its fourth plenary session in Hanoi this morning.

In past years, the patriotic emulation movement by Catholics as well as activities of the Catholic solidarity committees of provinces and cities countrywide have been focused on implementing the resolution of the Vietnam Catholic Solidarity General Committee's third plenary session. Catholics of all strata have placed their confidence on and carried out pretty well the policies of the state in all socioeconomic aspects. In many localities, Catholics have positively contributed suggestions and opinions on drafts to amend laws such as the Law on Land, Tax Law, on so forth. They also responded well to social and charity activities. Many localities have effectively provided poor Catholics with material help or cash amounting to many million dong.

In anticipation of the National Congress of the Vietnamese Catholicism, which will be held in 1995, the Catholic solidarity committees of all localities have actively continued to consolidate their organization and reformed their activities; have motivated Catholics to step up their production and business activities in all fields of agriculture, industry, forestry, and so forth; and have encouraged young Catholics to participate in the national defense movement, in campaigns to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty, in campaigns to reward family with meritorious deeds, as well as in campaigns to fight social vices.